

DATE February 8, 2012

FROM Michael Jacobs, AIA, CID, LEED AP Principal Architect

TO Rob Knarr, PE (for distribution to NKU) Project Manager

SUBJECT Campus Recreation Center Northern Kentucky University Highland Heights, KY

COMMENTS: The focus group meetings convened at 9:00 am this date with representatives from NKU faculty and staff, Campus Recreation staff, Kinesiology Department and Students in Room SU 104 of the NKU Student Union and at Norse Commons. NKU issued a "call-to-attend" for the focus group meetings for student, faculty, staff and alumni input on the design elements of a new recreation center. The notices were widely distributed and the times spread out between 9:00am to 7:00pm in order to provide broad availability to the design team. NKU established the focus group sessions as part of the university's inclusive policy for input on the student funded facility.

> 9:00am - 10:00am FACULTY AND STAFF SU 104

All parties introduced themselves, whom they represented, and their role in the project. See attached sign in sheets, which include their email addresses.

Reed Voorhees, representing the design team, led the discussion with the NKU faculty and staff with the following questions and responses:

What reasons do people have for having a health club membership elsewhere?

- Rock Climbing
- Child Care

What makes NKU special?

- Student Union brings people together
- Faculty Feels like a family
- Buildings are located close together



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What are your likes/dislikes about the existing facility?

- The existing facility doesn't look like a Recreation Center, there are no windows
- Facility was built when campus was half the size, so facility is undersized for current population
- Lockers are always unavailable (99 women/66 men available for faculty and staff)
- Existing facility is not handicap accessible
- Weight room is not big enough, there isn't any separation between workout areas/there isn't any room to spread out
- There is a need for a Pilates area and equipment
- Like the group fitness classes
- Need more space for group fitness classes
- There is limited swimming lanes available due to outside organizations utilizing the facility
- Small public lockers outside the existing locker rooms would be nice
- Facility is not open early enough (opens at 6:30am, which isn't early enough to work out and be at work before 8am)
- Like the existing running track
- Would like to have the ability to host events in large spaces (doesn't need to be the size of the entire gymnasium)
- Like the interaction between staff and students
- Between 3pm 6pm the racquetball courts are very busy, but other than those times it's easy to use a court
- The 2nd floor mezzanine fitness is very warm

What items would you like to have in the new facility?

- Would prefer the use of day lighting
- Do not want the facility to be so open that people are on display
- The ability to understand the space and where everything is when you enter the building but also have the individual spaces separated
- Would like to have TV screens at individual equipment

If you have visited other recreation centers on other campuses what did you like about them?

- Vanderbilt's pools and lockers in public spaces
- lowa's lighting was poor
- UC's site lines were nice, but the lighting was poor
- Ohio State had spaces to socialize, would like more versatility of the new spaces
- Liked how other facilities have signage for "recreation" on display from outside the building

What things could be added to new facility?

- Juice bar/concession that sells nutritional items (energy bars) outside of the gym area
- A space for functional workout areas (pull-ups, Dips, Rings, etc.)



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Reed Voorhees reviewed Slideshow Images representing a broad range of current trends in recreation center design. These images were presented to promote discussion on key issues of importance to the NKU community. The following responses were noted:

Gym spaces:

- Bouldering is good to eliminate staff and good for individual workouts
- There are not a lot of natural climbing areas in the Cincinnati area but there are several private facilities that offer rock climbing
- Liked the track with stretching areas
- Bouldering could be utilized for leadership training (NKU currently uses off site facilities)

Group exercise spaces:

- Would like spaces that could be reserved for non specific use (ex. P90x class)
- The more flexibility the new facility has the better

What would make the building more user friendly?

- More availability of classes/times
- Would like the Wellness Center to be incorporated into the facility
- Separation of exercise spaces (like separation of spinning from other exercises) or even different levels of classes could be offered

CAMPUS RECREATION STAFF

10:30am - 11:30am

SU 104

All parties introduced themselves, whom they represented, and their role in the project. See attached sign in sheets, which include their email addresses.

Reed Voorhees, representing the design team, led the discussion with the NKU faculty and staff with the following questions and responses:

What makes NKU special?

- Everyone knows everybody even though most people are commuters
- It would be nice to have more activity on campus when the school is closed
- Like the lounge area that was created recently, really like the social environment

What are your likes/dislikes about the existing facility?

- The existing facility doesn't have any windows, so there isn't a concept of time throughout the day



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- The existing facility feels like a dungeon
- The facility feels very secluded due to not having any signage/identification (you could be a senior on campus and not even know there was a recreation center
- No place for staff to store personal items storage in general is minimal
- Offices in existing facility are small and compact
- The architecture of the new facility needs to inform the function and circulation of the building
- Corridors to racquetball courts are small and cramped
- The existing entry/control point is prior to the lounge and should be flipped so the lounge is the entry point and the control point to get into the facility is after
- A concession space would be nice because there isn't any food available after 8pm on campus
- The existing facility is not handicap accessible

What items would you like to have in the new facility?

- New facility needs a better circulation plan
- New facility should be more visible to the campus (internal activity)
- Exercise spaces should be more spread out so the cardio and weight areas are more spread out
- The existing pool is too removed/cut-off from the rest of the facility (you have to go through the locker rooms to get to it. There needs to be more of a separation of lap lanes and leisure use. There isn't enough space in the pool area. There needs to be some kind of communication within the building to the pool and other parts of the building (radios?) for safety concerns
- Lockers are not available most of the time. There is a 3 to 2 ratio of men to women in the facility (for every 5 people, 3 are men). Need more lockers in new facility

What times is the facility the most busy?

- From 2pm 3pm and after until around 8pm
- NKU can provide information for range of people throughout a typical week

Reed Voorhees reviewed Slideshow Images representing a broad range of current trends in recreation center design. These images were presented to promote discussion on key issues of importance to the NKU community the following responses were noted:

Responses to images:

- Existing facility currently has Tae Kwon Do club, so there is a need for general spaces to hold existing and future classes
- New facility needs a separation for storage areas to separate equipment for intramural sports and typical exercise classes
- Existing NKU recreation center is 1 of 2 facilities with indoor diving capabilities (considered "premier" diving in this region)



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- There are not enough courts to hold functions for all existing exercise groups
- 6 basketball courts would be preferable with at least 1 M.A.C. court for flexibility (need off court space for teams like indoor soccer)

Mike Jacobs discussed the idea of the field and asked what items should be included at the field?

- Need a building for staff and equipment storage
- Need a check-in area/control point at the entry
- Need men's and women's restrooms

What kind of group exercise rooms will be needed?

- Yoga, Bike/Spinning, Multipurpose with bars on the wall, Multipurpose for active classes (P90x/Tae Kwon Do)
- Yoga and Bike/Spinning rooms will need separate controls for HVAC

What items should be included in the pool design?

- Need family restrooms
- Sauna
- Would like to include a zip line and rope swing
- The new pool should have more than just swimming lanes, a recreation swim area would be nice

KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

12:00pm - 1:00pm

SU 104

All parties introduced themselves, whom they represented, and their role in the project. See attached sign in sheets, which include their email addresses.

Reed Voorhees, representing the design team, led the discussion with the NKU faculty and staff with the following questions and responses:

What makes NKU special?

- Individual focus on the students
- NKU is mainly a commuter school
- The schools openness and flexibility between internal departments

What parts of the existing facility do you use?

- Pool, Multipurpose room, gym fitness center (weights)



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Reed Voorhees reviewed Slideshow Images representing a broad range of current trends in recreation center design. These images were presented to promote discussion on key issues of importance to the NKU community the following responses were noted:

Responses to images:

- The existing facility does not have enough storage spaces
- Would like to have one multipurpose room could be used for teaching without mirrors, with wood floors, high ceilings and day lighting. It would be used 10 hours a week (morning and afternoon). Room could have glass walls but activities could risk breakage
- Athletic training classes would have as many as 30 people
- There are 4 majors being taught in the existing facility
- Could utilize a rock wall for training
- Could use outdoor spaces. High ropes course would be useful too
- Existing air handler is very noisy
- The existing facility needs improvement on the acoustics in the large spaces and need room separation (curtains) within the existing gymnasium
- Would like to have more natural light in the new facility
- NKU will send the design team information for class times and sizes (Action item)
- There is a martial arts class that is being taught
- Would like to have a gymnasium without a walking track above
- Kinesiology Department uses the existing soccer field and would prefer to not have to do that
- Currently they hold classes and labs in the athletic training room
- Would like to have a pool with a zero entry for accessibility
- Would like to have public cubby spaces to eliminate clutter in the exercise spaces
- The Badminton lines on the existing gymnasium floor are not visible currently (yellow on yellow). Should separate courts have different lines for each type of sport played?
- Need storage for floor mats

STUDENTS 2:00pm - 3:00pm SU 104

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Reed Voorhees, representing the design team, led the discussion with the NKU faculty and staff with the following questions and responses:



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What makes NKU special?

- The closeness/proximity of campus buildings
- Innovative campus design and recent growth
- Emphasis on student life

What reasons do people have for having a membership elsewhere?

 Closeness to home. Student belonged to Urban Active and did not like Urban Active due to the segregated environment (preferred going to NKU recreation center instead)

What are your likes/dislikes about the existing facility?

- Like being able to check-out locks for lockers without paying for them
- Like the convenience of the facility being on campus
- Dislike the lack of variety of equipment (some equipment does not work)
- Would prefer more daylight in the facility
- Dislike the existing locker rooms
- The existing running track is too small, would prefer an outdoor run/walk path instead of a small track
- The existing weight room is too small. There is limited availability of equipment
- The temperature in the existing weight room is not stable
- The existing gymnasium is too cold
- The UK recreation center is very open and has glass at the running machines and elipticals so there is a view outside while you exercise
- There is a need for a multi-purpose space for hockey and indoor soccer
- Would like to see more branding for NKU
- Existing exercise room can only hold 40 people. Need more spaces/bigger spaces

Reed Voorhees reviewed Slideshow Images representing a broad range of current trends in recreation center design. These images were presented to promote discussion on key issues of importance to the NKU community the following responses were noted:

Responses to images:

- Would like to have a spa/sauna/hot tub
- Would like to have more storage space. A lot of people carry bags into building and they don't have any place to put them
- Would like to have a concession due to people on campus coming to watch intramural sports
- Would like the recreation center to be a central social location
- Some people will travel to other gyms for better weights so they don't have to wait in lines
- Like the idea of a turf field. Would like to have a baseball diamond, maybe Frisbee golf



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- Would like to have more space for seating in the gymnasium
- The existing facility only has one water fountain in the gymnasium
- Like the idea of an outdoor climbing wall at the field
- The outdoor field could be a great social environment
- Would like to have an outdoor patio of some kind with tables and chairs

STUDENTS

3:30pm - 4:30pm

SU 104

All parties introduced themselves, whom they represented, and their role in the project. See attached sign in sheets, which include their email addresses.

Reed Voorhees, representing the design team, led the discussion with the NKU faculty and staff with the following questions and responses:

What makes NKU special?

- Private school feel with a public school cost

What are your likes/dislikes about the existing facility?

- Club sports do not have enough space
- Limited equipment available
- The existing facility has a "community" feel to it

What items would you like to have in the new facility?

- Would like the new facility to have big open spaces with daylight
- UK has 4 fitness rooms and 2 gyms. The facility is much more open
- Marietta College has a nice weight room, the cardio area is separated and has more open spaces

Reed Voorhees reviewed Slideshow Images representing a broad range of current trends in recreation center design. These images were presented to promote discussion on key issues of importance to the NKU community the following responses were noted:

Responses to images:

- The new facility should have a multipurpose floor for various types of events
- Would like to have more transparency in the new facility
- Would like to have a larger lounge space to relax and study
- Would like to have separate spaces for different work groups (experienced vs. inexperienced people)
- Would like to see the weights organized in different areas of the gym (heavy vs. light lifting areas)



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- Like the Sauna/Spa/Hot tub idea
- Existing pools needs a recreation area
- Would like to have an outdoor obstacle course/high ropes area
- Not enough lockers in the existing building
- Need more free weight areas
- Need open floor areas for floor exercises and stretching
- Add a café to recreation center
- Would like to have a foam pit area and a trampoline
- Would like to have child care added to the new facility

STUDENTS

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Norse Commons

All parties introduced themselves, whom they represented, and their role in the project. See attached sign in sheets, which include their email addresses.

Reed Voorhees, representing the design team, led the discussion with the NKU faculty and staff with the following questions and responses:

What reasons do people have for having a membership elsewhere?

- Urban Active has bigger/better weight room

What makes NKU special?

- 24 to 1 class size
- Know everyone on campus
- Location close to downtown Cincinnati
- Easy to feel like you belong and to be involved

What are your likes/dislikes about the existing facility?

- Like the existing track over the gymnasium
- Staff is all students in the existing facility
- Like the multi-purpose and aerobic classes
- Like having racquetball courts
- Easily accessible on campus/good location
- The existing facility is too small/cluttered
- There aren't enough fitness classes
- Need better sanitary for cleaning equipment
- Would like to hear music in pool area
- Some people don't use the pool because serious swimmers use up most of the pool
- Would like to have more leisure/recreation swimming
- Would like the pool area to be more open and have more daylight



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If you have visited other recreation centers on other campuses what did you like about them?

- Miami, OH has a vitamin/health food store
- UC is very open and has a lot of day lighting

What limitations does the current facility have?

- All indoor intramurals are all played on the same surface (hardwood floor)
- Would like to have more fitness classes offered (P90x/Insanity only offered one day a week)

Reed Voorhees reviewed Slideshow Images representing a broad range of current trends in recreation center design. These images were presented to promote discussion on key issues of importance to the NKU community the following responses were noted:

Responses to images:

- Like the entry/check-in point
- Snack bar would be a great idea (really need something like that on the weekends)
- An apparel shop would be great to pick up NKU merchandise
- Like the M.A.C. spaces. Using glass could promote more activity
- Would like to see more NKU branding
- Punching bags in the exercise rooms would be nice.
- Weight training area adjacent to women's locker room would be nice. A lot of women don't use the running machines because of the men using them.
- Multipurpose pool for experienced and leisure swimmers to both use.
- More meeting spaces would be great for intramural meetings. Currently they are using the existing classrooms
- Need defined signage for interior and exterior of the building
- Would like to have more day lighting in the new facility



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The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 pm.

Meeting minutes have been prepared to establish a record of the meeting and information shared. The information presented herein shall in now way supersede or modify the Contract Documents. Should you have any questions, comments or corrections, please forward to Omni Architects within three days.

NKU

Attachments: Focus Group Sign-in Sheets (11 pages)

cc: Larry Blake Steve Nienaber

Steve Nienaber NKU Mary Paula Schuh NKU

Michael Jacobs Omni Architects Don Adams Omni Architects Omni Architects Jay Copley George Nikolajevich Cannon Design Reed Voorhees Cannon Design David Body Cannon Design John McAlister Cannon Design Steve Crocker Counsilman-Hunsaker

Tony Hans CMTA
Peyman Jahed BFMJ
Vivian Llambi VLA

Mark Gillis The Sextant Group

Robert Pass RP+A

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