



Memorandum

To: Mayor, Town Council
From: Ryan Gubler
Date: August 4, 2021
Re: **Indoor Recreation Survey and Ballfield Repairs**

In an ongoing effort to find new and unique ways for the residents to recreate, the Parks and Recreation Department recently conducted a community survey to gauge interest in additional indoor recreational options. The decision to conduct this survey came after we received feedback from residents who expressed a desire for indoor recreation opportunities, specifically when the weather was either too hot or too cold to do much outside. This feedback came through a community survey in 2019.

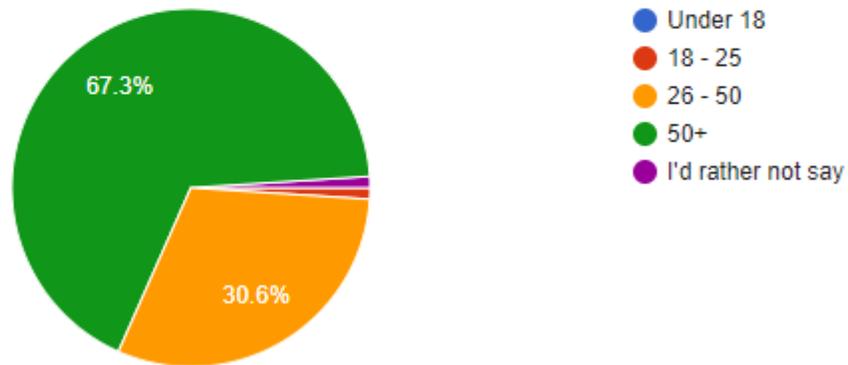
The survey stayed open for six days and we had 101 participants. The questions addressed were a mixture of multiple choice and short answer, and addressed topics such as types of indoor recreation people were most interested in, whether or not in their opinion a new facility was warranted or needed, open space considerations, cost, etc. The results were varied, but we were able to notice recurring themes and have real data that we can use in our decision-making moving forward. Attached is the report with our findings and options for our plan moving forward.

Survey Results

The first question was simple question on age so that we could have a better understanding of the demographics of those who participated in the survey. Of the ninety-eight responses to this question, sixty-six people (67%) indicated they were over the age of fifty. Thirty people (31%) indicated that they were between ages twenty-six to fifty. One person indicated between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five, and one person did not wish to say.

Please indicate your age

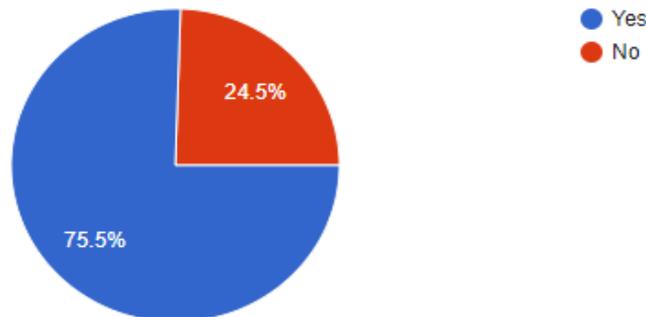
98 responses



Another question addressed costs. We wanted to know if people would be willing to help cover the costs of a new facility through membership or user fees. We had ninety-eight responses where seventy-four people (76%) indicated they would be willing to pay while twenty-four people (25%) said they would not.

Providing indoor recreation facilities would increase costs to the Town. To help cover those costs, would you be willing to pay a small user fee or monthly membership fee for access to more indoor recreational options?

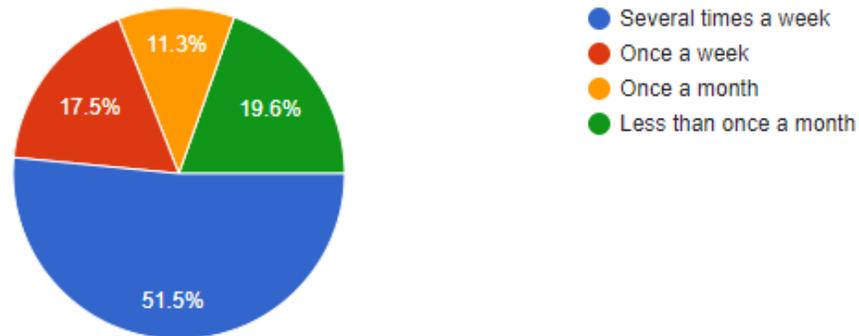
98 responses



Another key indicator we wanted to know is how often people would utilize a new rec building. Below are the results.

If one were available in Springdale, how often would you visit an indoor recreation facility?

97 responses



One of our open-ended questions was to find, simply, if the Town should construct additional facilities. If so, why? If not, then why not? We had eighty-six responses in total. Of those, forty-four responded with a definitive “YES”. Twenty-two responded with a definite “NO”. Nine responded with a “MAYBE” or with some sort of condition attached.

Some of the recurring themes that we saw from those responses which were in favor were:

- Too hot or cold to recreate in the summer and winter months
- Commuting to other communities down canyon to work out
- Creating a place that prioritizes residents over tourists
- Increased health, wellness, and sense of community

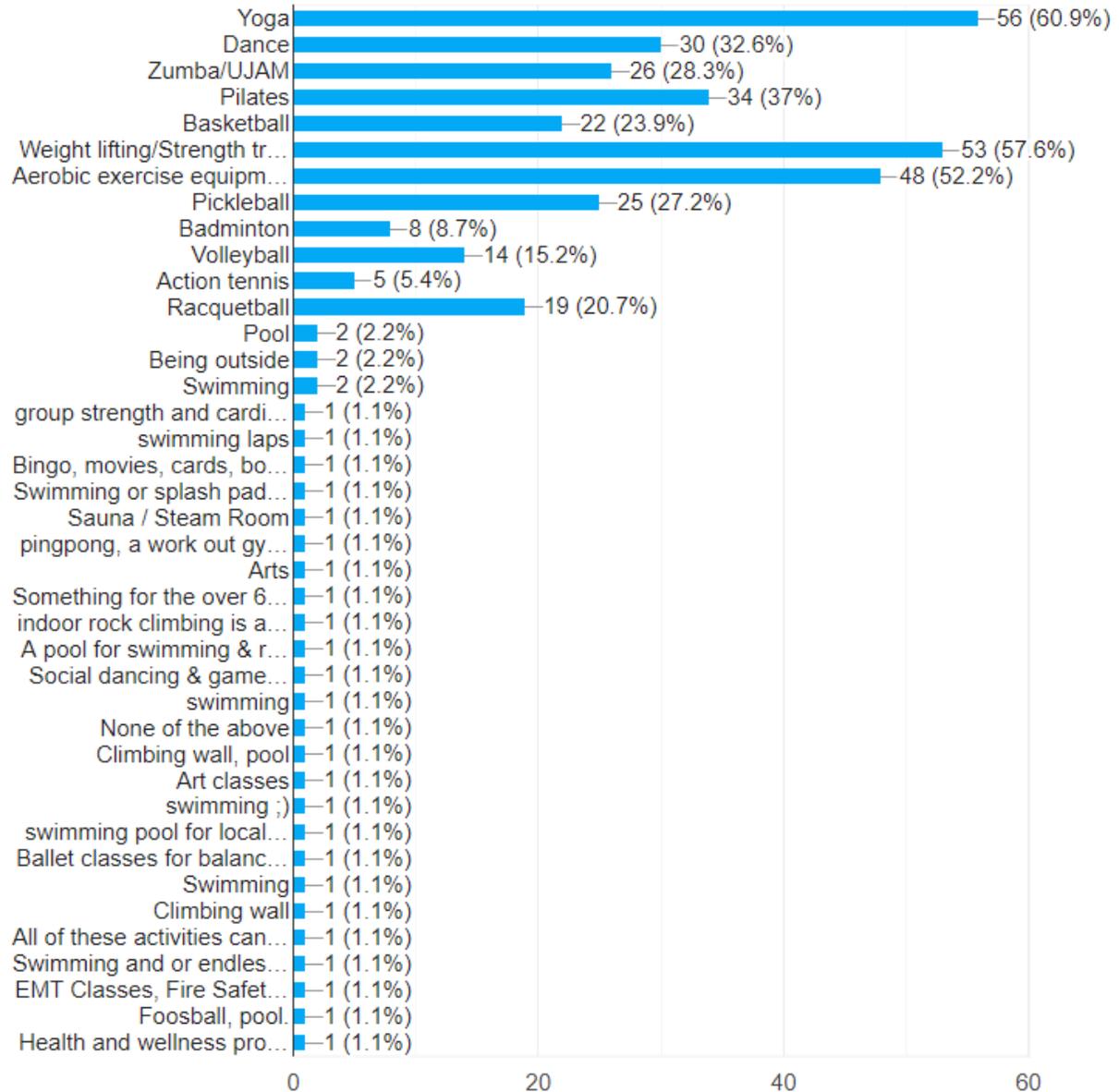
Some of the recurring themes that we saw from those responses which were not in favor were:

- Prioritizing outdoor recreation over a new facility
- Both initial and ongoing costs/staffing
- What we currently have is sufficient
- The money it would take would be better served going towards other projects or priorities

A new rec building would be fairly small compared to rec centers in other communities, so we wanted to know how to best prioritize the space. We asked what types of recreation people are most interested in. Below are the results.

What types of indoor recreation are of most interest to you? Check all that apply.

92 responses



The purpose of our next open-ended questions was about the limited property and open space we have in town. We asked for suggestions on how to construct a new facility while also preserving public property for other essential municipal services. There were sixty-five responses to this question. Some of the recurring themes we saw were:

- Building a new facility on the ball field
- Using existing buildings (CCC) and make additions if necessary
- Preserving open-space by not building any new facilities
- The need for a new medical facility

The last open-ended question of the survey asked if there were any suggestions as it pertains to recreation in the Town. This generated 61 responses. Some of the recurring themes we saw were:

- The desire for a public outdoor pool
- Not using limited funds on things that they believe will get minimal use
- More programming and better marketing of events at the community center
- More outdoor trails
- Keeping our current rec facilities (volleyball pit, tennis/pickleball courts, etc.)

Next Steps

While we have had conversations about possible locations of a new recreation building, the recent flood event has pushed this conversation to the forefront. As staff we have identified the infield of the ballfield as a potential location to build. Currently, the infield is in a state of disrepair, and spending money to get it fixed would only make sense should we decide that it would not be a suitable location for a recreation building.

Currently we have \$5,000.00 budgeted for architectural programming for a recreation building. This would provide us a general site plan, conceptual elevations, floorplans, etc. that we would then use to inform and educate the public in an attempt to gather community input on via an open-house.

We also plan on reengaging our old steering committee and also creating a community health coalition to help understand how we can not only look for new avenues of recreation, but better use existing facilities and amenities.

The direction we are looking for from council can really be boiled down to 3 options:

- Start minimal repairs to ballfield (enough to make it safe) and start the process of implementing a new recreation building
- Repair the infield completely and start the process of implementing a new recreation building
- Repair the infield completely and not move forward with a new recreation building at this time

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Ryan Gubler
Director of Parks and Recreation