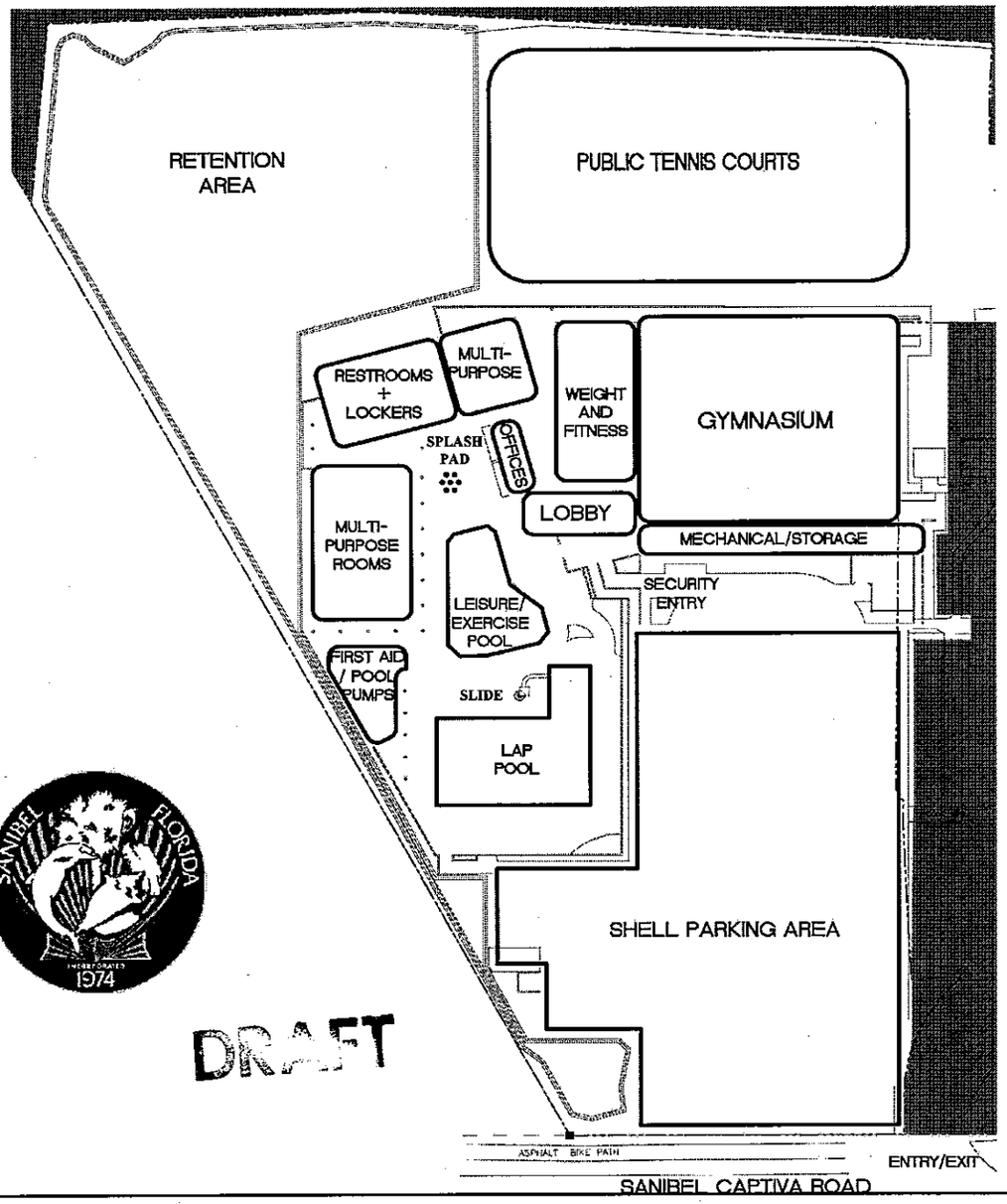
9. **OLD BUSINESS**

d. Proposed Recreation Center

1. Approval of final draft of Proposed Recreation Center brochure

THE ATTACHED IS THE REVISED FINAL DRAFT OF THE PROPOSED RECREATION CENTER BROCHURE

PROPOSED RECREATION CENTER SITE PLAN



HOW DOES THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE NEW FACILITY COMPARE TO THE EXISTING OPERATING BUDGET?

The current 2006 Operating Budget for the Recreation Center is $849,909. The estimated Operating Budget for the **new facility is $901,794, an increase of 6%**. Factors that impact the budget of the new facility are:

- 20% reduction in utilities due to the environmentally sustainable design.
- Lee County School District will pay 20% of the utilities cost each year.
- The addition of several part-time persons equivalent to one full-time staff member.

WHY IS THERE NOT MORE PERSONNEL IN THE OPERATING ESTIMATE?

It is anticipated that new or additional programs will be staffed utilizing **contract instructors and part-time employees as is done at the Senior Center and Big Arts, and paid from program fees**. In addition, the School District is cleaning and providing supplies for its portion of the gymnasium, which further reduces the need for more staff.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO BUILD THE NEW FACILITY?

The construction timeframe from start to finish is estimated to be 14 months.

HOW MANY SWIMMING POOLS ARE THERE IN THE POOL AREA?

In response to Community requests to reduce the scope of the new Recreation Center, **the number of pools was decreased from four pools to two pools.**

ARE THERE PUBLIC TENNIS COURTS ON SANIBEL?

No. The only public tennis courts on the Island were demolished in 2002. **The new plan includes four public tennis courts.**

WILL THERE BE USER FEES AT THE NEW RECREATION CENTER?

On February 7, 2006 City Council unanimously adopted the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee that a **nominal fee structure similar to the annual beach parking pass structure be adopted** prior to the opening of the facility. In addition to augmenting the revenue stream for the facility, a pass system could be tied into the facility's security system.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee also recommended that annual membership cards be issued with a different fee structure for individuals, families, residents and tourists. Additionally, no resident will be denied use of the facility due to the inability to pay and the existing scholarship fund policy will be available for those who need financial assistance.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CITY HALL

City of Sanibel
800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, FL 33957

March 2006

City of Sanibel

Dear Fellow Citizens,

City Council has recently made several decisions that directly relate to the April 4, 2006 referendum on the financing and construction of the new Recreation Center.

The information provided in this brochure will update you on these decisions as well as answer additional questions we have received since our last mailing.

Sincerely,

Carla Brooks Johnston, Mayor
Mick Denham, Vice Mayor
Steve Brown, Councilmember
Jim Jennings, Councilmember
Tom Rothman, Councilmember

DRAFT

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WHAT HAPPENS IF THE COST OF THE PROJECT IS HIGHER THAN THE ESTIMATE?

On February 7, 2006 **City Council unanimously adopted Resolution 06-019, confirming that there will be no City ad valorem (property tax) funds or other City sources of funding** for the Recreation Center construction other than:

- $8,350,000 bond proceeds.
- $1,000,000 in the General Fund Reserves, for unanticipated costs over current estimates.
- $508,475 General Fund Reserves carry-forward.
- $564,500 expended in FY 2005.

In addition, other funding from our Governmental partners is:

- $3.2 million from Lee County
  $1.596 million from the School District
  This caps new tax costs per average Sanibel residental property valued at $521,603 at approximately $5.58 per month, which is less than $67 per year per household. This equates to a cost per $100,000 of property valuation of less than $13.00 per year or $1.07 per month.

WHAT IS THE PILE OF DIRT BEHIND THE EXISTING RECREATION CENTER?

City Council approved the storage of fill from various City projects behind the existing Recreation Center for the proposed new Recreation center. The decision made to utilize fill from City construction projects **reduces the cost of the project by approximately $319,000.**

WHAT FACTORS WERE CONSIDERED WHEN THE DECISION WAS MADE TO CONSTRUCT RATHER THAN RENOVATE?

- The condition and age of pool equipment, pool deck, gym floor surface, roof, etc.
- Mold infestation and demolition of the restrooms, offices, storage room and multipurpose room.
- The need for increased security with a single entrance to control the facility.
- Site visits were made to other recreation facilities that attempted to retrofit air conditioning into build ings not constructed or insulated for air conditioning.
- The Federal Flood regulations state that any reconstruction, addition or other improvements to a build ing, the cost of which equals 50% of the market value of the building, requires the structure to be elevated to minimum flood requirements.

WILL THE CITY'S INSURANCE RATES INCREASE BY ADDING A NINE FOOT SLIDE?

No. The Florida League of Cities, the City of Sanibel's insurance carrier, responded on February 15, 2006 to our inquiry regarding the addition of a slide. The slide enters into a separate area of the main pool and does not disrupt lap swimming. The Florida League of Cities representative stated in writing that **the City's insurance will not be affected by adding this pool feature.**