

Memorandum of Understanding

**School District 200,
Park District of Oak Park,
and
River Forest Park District**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between the School District 200 (D200), Park District of Oak Park (PDOP), and the River Forest Park District (RFPD) on the collaboratively funded construction of a Community Recreation Center to provide recreational and wellness opportunities to the communities of Oak Park and River Forest. The proposed construction of a Community Recreation Center would include amenities such as walking track, indoor pool, sports courts, childcare, fitness spaces, meeting spaces and more. This facility will support D200, PDOP, and RFPD's desires to provide quality indoor recreational spaces for residents of all ages to provide health and wellness as well as help support the D200 aquatic athletics program.

Background

School District 200 (D200) Park District of Oak Park (PDOP) and the River Forest Park District (RFPD) have a history of partnering at a variety of levels, but specifically with the use of facility spaces when one entity does not have that particular asset. D200 and PDOP have a comprehensive Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for use of fields, gymnasiums and other indoor spaces. PDOP and RFPD have partnered on a variety of levels including cross program offerings in respective community program brochures as well as offsetting fees for River Forest residents who use PDOP's pools and Oak Park residents who use RFPD's platform tennis courts.

D200 pools suffer from significant structural issues due to the age of the infrastructure. As a result of the poor conditions, there is a concern these facilities may fail and thus there is a need to replace the existing pool(s). The community has expressed a desire to gain access to the pools for lap swim and other aquatic activities.

PDOP does not have any indoor basketball courts in their facility portfolio and while they currently use both D200 and D97 courts, these courts are not always available to the PDOP and do not allow for drop-in time for youth and adults. Additionally, PDOP does not have an indoor pool and is reliant on D200's pool for swim lessons six months out of the year. The Park District has a desire to expand the inventory of quality indoor recreational spaces in response to the 2005, 2010 and 2014 community surveys. Indoor pool, indoor walking track, indoor fitness, arts facilities, and indoor gymnasiums were ranked the top five facility priorities in the 2014 community survey.

RFPD acknowledges their lack of indoor basketball courts and quality indoor facility space. The desire to provide adult programs of any kind and family special events were stated to be most needed programs for the River Forest community. Additionally, approximately 10% of the responses gave unsolicited requests for an indoor pool facility.

Need

A feasibility study was conducted in 2016 to help determine the desire for a Community Recreation Center in Oak Park.

- All six Oak Park Government Entities participated in the feasibility study and supported the idea of a Community Center being offered to residents regardless of whether they had a specific use for the facility or not.
- Collaboration opportunities and key stakeholders including government and not-for-profit partners were identified and interviewed as part of this evaluation process.
- The community was interested in evaluating the financial realities for the construction and operation of a Community Recreation Center.
- PDOP is interested in pursuing a model that can be financially self-sustaining.
- There is interest in evaluating the potential for the site to serve as a community destination; therefore, the site and final plan may include additional spaces for other local entities that could provide positive economic impact for entities surrounding the Community Recreation Center.

- River Forest Park District also collected community input regarding a Community Recreation Center that highlighted the support for indoor basketball courts and 10% of the responses noted an unsolicited desire for a pool facility.

Purpose

This MOU will be used to ensure consistent communication between D200, PDOP, RFPD, and key stakeholders regarding project scope, timing and funding. The end goal is to provide a Community Recreation Center to increase access to quality indoor recreational and community space to be used by residents of both Oak Park and River Forest as well as D200 athletics during non-school hours.

This goal will be accomplished by addressing the following needs:

- Increased access to safe spaces for drop-in play by youth after school.
- Increased access to quality indoor pool space for D200 aquatic team practices.
- Increased ability to offer year-round swim lessons, lap swim and water exercise.
- Increased access to indoor gymnasium space for youth and adult athletic programs.
- Increased use of indoor recreational spaces for Oak Park and River Forest youth, teens, adults, families and seniors.
- Increased community meeting space for not-for-profit and government groups.
- Increased childcare spaces to meet community needs for quality after-school programming.
- Increased opportunity to build community through intergenerational programming at the Community Recreation Center.
- Provide healthy lifestyle options to youth and their families through a community recreation center which allows for year-round access to a variety of amenities including walking track, gymnasiums, pools, etc.
- Reduced cancellation of programs due to limited access to indoor sports space.

Reporting

- D200, PDOP, and RFPD staff will meet bi-weekly until project scope, funding and timing are confirmed.
- D200, PDOP, and RFPD Board Representatives will meet at least monthly on the progress of the agreement terms through a joint communication piece from D200, PDOP, and RFPD staff.
- Key stakeholders (e.g. PDOP, private funders, not-for-profit partners, others) will be updated at least monthly on the status of funding and construction progress.

Funding

- The cost of the design and construction of a Community Recreation Center will be between \$36-\$47 million depending on location and amenities.
- PDOP will commit funds towards the Community Recreation Center and possibly land depending on selected location.
- RFPD will commit funds towards the Community Recreation Center.
- D200 will commit funds toward the Community Recreation Center and create a financing structure for the PDOP and RFPD that provides funds on their behalf and allows them to repay these funds over time.
- D200, PDOP, and RFPD will engage in discussion with other potential partners to determine if they are capital partners or potential leasing partners for the Community Recreation Center.
- D200, PDOP, and RFPD will engage local community organizations and private donors and request their combined funding support of no less than \$5M for the Community Recreation Center. Donations could result in naming rights for the center or interior amenities.

Location

Through the feasibility study three locations have been identified and vetted for potential sites for the construction of the Community Recreation Center. All three parties of this agreement will need to be informed of the pros and cons of each location and agree on site location.

Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from D200, PDOP, and RFPD only after authorization by each respective Board. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from D200, PDOP, and RFPD and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. In absence of being able to secure commitments of required funds from local community organizations and potential partners by December 1, 2017, this MOU will become invalid and the Community Recreation Center will not be constructed as described above.

Construction

The Park District will engage the architecture and engineering services to coordinate the design, bid specifications and construction of the facility once funding is secured.

Operations

PDOP will serve as the operating entity for the Community Recreation Center.

Intergovernmental Agreements will be created between D200, PDOP, and RFPD once the funding is secured and the three entities agree on location and amenities.

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Signature Page

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**School District 200,
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and
River Forest Park District**

(D200 Print Name)

(D200 Signature)

(Title)

(Date)

(PDOP Print Name)

(PDOP Signature)

(Title)

(Date)

(RFPD Print Name)

(RFPD Signature)

(Title)

(Date)