

BI Aquatics Center Feasibility, Public Focus Group, Meeting Notes

Time: July 9, 2018, 6:00 pm
Location: Bainbridge Aquatics Center
Attendees: Mark Benishek, BIMPRD, Recreation Division Director, Client
Joe McRitchie, AIA, Coates Design
Paula Sigala, Coates Design
Representatives from Public Lap Swimming
Representatives from BISC Members
Representatives from BAM Members

PROJECT:

Feasibility study for the Replacement of the Existing Ray Williams Lap Pool.

PURPOSE:

Focus Group Meeting with Public, Lap Pool User Group (non-staff or coaches). Discussions to identify critical Lap Pool Facility Components related to user group needs. Facility Areas Discussed: Lap Pool, Deck Area, Dryland, Atmosphere and Circulation.

GENERAL: Coates to move the project forward and to include the following notes.

NOTES:

Discussion/Comments by Facility Area:

1. Lap Pool Needs

A. BISC Member Comments

1. Maximize the number of lanes. Most important. Current 6 lane pool size requires extreme scheduling, (early morning and late night) to accommodate training. This is a hardship for young athletes.
2. 50-Meter X 25-Yard Pool would be ideal. Twenty 25-yard lanes would allow multiple club and public lap usage. Change over to eight 50-meter lanes at times would accommodate long course training and the potential for long course swim meets.
3. Lane Width is important, official 2.5 meter width ideal.
4. Moveable Bulkhead to split the 50M pool. Allows separation of activity when needed.
5. Pool Depth minimums- 5' for lap swimming, 6' for water polo.
6. Constant pool temperature is critical to swimmers.
7. Swim team swims year-round, Long 50-meter Course 3 months (June – August), Short 25-yard Course 9 months (September- May). Currently BISC travels to practice at long course pool.

B. Public Swimmers Comments

1. Maximize the number of 25-yard lanes available every day. The majority of public lap swimmers would prefer more lanes to reduce crowding.
2. 50-Meter X 25-Yard pool would be great to maximize the 25-yard lane count. Use of 50-meter lane direction would not be beneficial for public swimmers. The average age of the lap swimmers appears to be around 60, with a large number in their 70's. Older swimmers are likely to be intimidated by a 50-meter turn around. The 25-yard direction would need to be the primary layout for public use, not 50-meters.
3. Concerned with: the cost for a moveable bulkhead and staff requirements for a 50-meter pool.
4. A deeper pool is a still pool, which is great for both lap swimmers and competitive swimmers.
5. Constant warmer pool temperature is critical to swimmers.

C. **BAM Member Comments**

1. Maximize the number of lanes. Most important. Current 6 lane pool size requires extreme scheduling, (early morning and late night) to accommodate training. BAM is losing swimmers due to lack of available training times and overcrowding.
2. 50-Meter X 25-Yard Pool would be great to maximize the 25-yard lane count. 25-Yard X 25-Meter pool would meet BAM needs but may not resolve scheduling with other teams and public use.
3. Lane Width is important, official 2.5 meter width ideal. Wider lanes reduce risk for injury with multiple swimmers in a single lane.
4. Pool Depth minimum- 4'-6"- 5' for lap swimming. Important to be able to stand at shallow end for coaching interaction.
5. Constant pool temperature is critical to swimmers.
6. Ozone pool water purification system.

2. **Deck Area Needs**

A. **BISC Member Comments**

1. Larger deck area needed. Current deck is narrow and overcrowded during swim meets.
2. Separate spectators from athletes and officials. Have enough room for spectator area.
3. Permanent spectator seating may not be critical. Retractable bleachers or larger deck space to accommodate spectator standing area discussed.
4. Club training equipment storage on deck needed. Loss has been an issue. Each user group should have their own equipment storage area, (BISC, BAM, and Public) on deck.

B. **Public Swimmers Comments**

1. Larger deck area needed.
2. Accessibility for special needs is critical. The pool is a social/community gathering place for all ages and physical ability.
3. Equipment storage on deck for each club and public user group.
4. Bathrooms needed, deck adjacent.
5. Preserve existing steam room, sauna, and hot tub. This is critical "hub" for community / social aspect.

C. BAM Member Comments

1. Larger deck area needed.
2. Equipment storage on deck for each club and public user group. It would be nice for masters to have a storage place with hooks like the BISC has.
3. Display cases, message boards, etc. These are the essence of building community for our team. Right now, the deep end of the pool has record boards for the high school. Create similar wall space for age group and masters swimming, as well as current club news.
4. Good set-up for timing systems at meets needed. These systems are finicky and hard to install. More hardwiring might help.
5. Diving boards on deck take up deck space. Prefer that diving take place at existing dive tank in Nakata Pool.
6. Multiple on-deck shower heads. Currently, team members' line up for the single deck shower to rinse off the personal care products before swimming. Showers at locker room are far away and makes the walk to the deck cold and slippery.
7. Permanent spectator seating not critical. Retractable or temporary seating (folding chairs) would be viable. Current annual swim meet, there are about 120 people present, and about 60 sitting at any given time.

3. Dryland Areas Needs

A. BISC Member Comments

1. Dryland Training area needed. CrossFit, Yoga, Weights, and Other. 25-30 kids train at a time.
2. Multi-Room needed to accommodate Concessions and Ticket Sales. This can be a "Wet Room" just off deck. Concession sale at BISC meets are a large revenue resource for club.
3. Multi-Room needed to accommodate officials and other meet personnel. This can be a "Wet Room" just off deck. Currently, BISC hosts 2 swim meets annually.
4. Locker area, additional locker space needed, especially in Men's locker room. Currently a one year waiting list.

B. Public Swimmers Comment

1. Multi-Room/Wet-Room to accommodate public needs.

C. BAM Member Comments

1. Dryland Training area needed. CrossFit, Yoga, Weights, and Other. Current facility only allows for 8 athletes to train at a time. Wait list in place for Team Dryland Training. Ideal size equivalent to a typical CrossFit gym.
2. Coaches/Team room to include viewing screen for video feedback.
3. Additional locker space needed.

4. General Atmosphere and Circulation Needs

A. BISC Member Comments

1. Acoustic Buffering needed. Lots of Kids cheering their team on...
2. Enough space to accommodate large swim meets. BISC could host additional swim meets with more space. Ability to have a meet without having to rent the Nakata Pool for overflow.

B. Public Swimmer Comments

1. The pool is a social/community gathering for all ages. Also, a good rehabilitation exercise for handicap, of any age (handicap mentally or physically)
2. More lanes would mean that BISC (Bainbridge Island Swim Club) could share pool time with lap swimmers as they already do on Mondays. I think it's great that the kids see the geezers out their doing it too.
3. Lighting the building and pool is critical to a positive experience.
4. Air quality important.

C. BAM Member Comments

1. Acoustic buffering. The reflective walls in most pools make it very noisy and hard to hear, especially coaches instructions, which are key to the workout.
2. No cast shadows from direct sun light. Contrasting shadows and bright light make it harder to swim.
3. Direct or controlled access to lap pool at early practice times needed. Right now, we enter from the west side after walking down over the grass or around the building from the south.

Close:

Needs to operate during construction

- Swim clubs, BAM, BISC, BHS do not have an "off" season. Managing a swim team without a lap pool facility would have a significant impact on each club.
- Public user comment: *"Many of us are concerned with the new pool plan threatening to close Ray during construction. For many of us the pool time is therapy, both physical and mental. There are many disabled people who rely on their pool time to get through the day. Shutting down Ray should be avoided at all cost, or at least minimized as much as possible."*