

Edmond, YMCA team up on project

UPDATE BOTH WILL SHARE COSTS FOR RECREATION CENTER

BY DIANA BALDWIN  0 Comments
Published: April 28, 2010

EDMOND — Edmond taxpayers said in 2000 they wanted a recreational center and swimming pool as part of the Multi-Activity Center, so city officials are creating a partnership with the YMCA to make that happen.

YMCA and city officials have agreed to team up to build a \$12 million center with a new gymnasium, family aquatic swimming pool, walking track and fitness center. Final details on the partnership are being completed.

Council members this week discussed the partnership and said they expect to vote on a construction and operation agreement next month.

Assistant City Manager Steve Commons said the YMCA and the city each will contribute \$6 million to construct the center. The city's portion is in the bank. It comes from a special sales tax passed in 2000 earmarked for capital improvements.

The city will own the building, but the YMCA will lease the building for 20 years. The YMCA will pay for all the operating expenses of the building and take care of the regular maintenance in the building, Commons said.

"The city will be responsible for the structural integrity of the building and the exterior care of the building and grounds," Commons said.

Mike Roark, YMCA executive director, told city council members the YMCA is in agreement with the city.

Edmond Public Schools were a potential partner in the original project that called for a competition pool. The schools contributed \$15,000 to a study of the feasibility and cost of a concept plan.

But the schools are not in a financial position to proceed with the project at this time, officials said.

Commons said plans for the building will include future expansion if the schools decide to come on board with a competition swimming pool.

Mayor Patrice Douglas said the University of Central Oklahoma and Oklahoma Christian University were asked to be part of the project also, but declined.

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