



**CITY OF STANWOOD
FINANCE COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT**

ITEM NUMBER: 5
DATE: February 26, 2015
SUBJECT: YMCA Request for Support
CONTACT PERSON: Deborah Knight, City Administrator
ATTACHMENTS: A – Draft Letter to Senator Bailey and Representatives Smith and Hayes in Support of YMCA
B – Stanwood-Camano YMCA Flyer
C – Island County Letter of Support for YMCA

ISSUE

Should the city send a letter of support for the Stanwood-Camano YMCA to state elected officials?

RECOMMENDATION

The city should send a letter of support for the Stanwood-Camano YMCA to state elected officials?

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The new, proposed Stanwood-Camano YMCA will be an important asset to the City of Stanwood and surrounding areas. The City should send a letter of support to its state elected officials, especially during the current legislative session when they are prioritizing the state budget for the next biennium which begins on July 1, 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no cost to the city to send a letter of support for the Stanwood-Camano YMCA. If the state provides funding, the financial impact to the project could be substantial.

FINANCE COMMITTEE OPTIONS

1. Recommend to council a letter of support for the Stanwood-Camano YMCA as presented.
2. Recommend to council a letter of support for the Stanwood Camano YMCA with suggested changes.
3. Do not recommend to council a letter of support for the Stanwood Camano YMCA.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

“I move to recommend to council a letter of support for the Stanwood-Camano YMCA.”

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Smith and Representative Hayes,

You may be aware of the excellent progress the City of Stanwood, in conjunction with surrounding communities, have made towards bringing a YMCA to Stanwood:

- \$8.4 million raised to date, primarily from local donors.
- \$6 million investment commitment from the YMCA.
- Several foundations and corporations considering gifts.
- Community-wide fundraising campaign planned for later in 2015.
- Property purchased within walking distance of three schools, a medical facility, senior housing and a commercial shopping hub.
- Groundbreaking planned for mid to late summer 2015 and Grand Opening one year later.
- Local staff hired and after-school programs started; which now serve hundreds of local youth and teens.

This 40,000 – 50,000 sqft YMCA will feature an aquatic center, gymnasium, cardio and weight equipment, group exercise studios, early childhood programs, youth Adventure Zone, teen center, multipurpose and community gathering spaces. At \$18 million, this is the largest community effort ever attempted in our area. Approximately 100 jobs will be created once the Stanwood-Camano YMCA opens, and the facility is also expected to become an economic driver by acting as a magnet for regional families and seniors

The Stanwood-Camano YMCA project was recommended for funding on the Department of Commerce Youth Recreation Facilities Fund priority list and ranked six of nine. However, the Governor proposed funding for the first five projects on the list.

We support all applicants on the Youth Facilities Fund list, including the Stanwood-Camano YMCA, and respectfully ask that you fully fund the list of requests.

Sincerely,

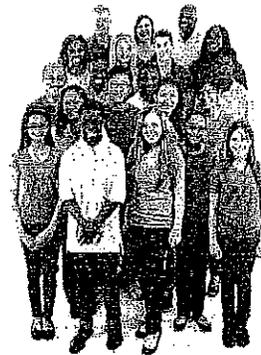


FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Stanwood-Camano YMCA will be a Special Place

The Heart of a Healthy Community

- The Y will be a state-of-the-art, multi-generational hub for the entire community, serving 20,000 people through programs and amenities focused on health and well-being.
- A warm and welcoming environment, it will become the community center to enhance healthy lives and strengthen our community for generations of children, youth, adults, seniors, and families.



The new Stanwood-Camano YMCA will:

Inspire and Develop Youth

- According to a 2013 Snohomish Health District study, of all cities in Snohomish County, Stanwood rates the highest for accidental poisonings, which include drug overdoses. YMCA youth and teen programs will provide alternatives to these risky and destructive behaviors.
- Our youth lack a connection to their community and a positive vision for their future. They need more opportunities to explore their own interests, identify their talents, and forge healthy relationships.



Ensure a Healthy and Safe Community

- Our community has few options for specialized care, support for those with special needs, or those with chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, Parkinson's and cancer recovery.
- More than 50% of Camano Island's population and 30% of Stanwood's population is over the age of 50. As our community ages, individuals need additional services to help them maintain social vibrancy and physical independence.
- Our community is surrounded by water with minimal access to swimming opportunities -- for water safety or health benefits.



Build Community Connections

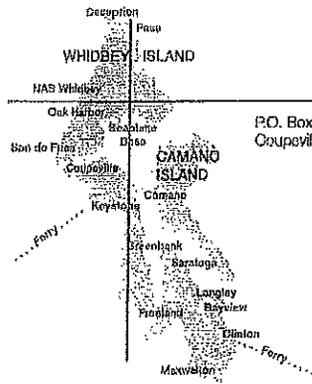
- Over the past 10 years the need for free or reduced lunch has grown by 50 percent. The Y is available to all in the community regardless of ability to pay.
- The Stanwood-Camano School District ranks 7th on the list of districts in Washington State that is losing student population.
- A Y will provide the anchor our community needs to attract and retain families.

YMCA of Snohomish County

Stanwood-Camano Initiative

Dawne Wentworth, Director
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(360) 629-9622

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Stanwood, WA 98292



Island County Board of Commissioners

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February 3, 2015

Senator Bailey
 109B Irv Newhouse Building
 PO Box 40410
 Olympia, WA 98504

Representative Smith
 435 John L. O'Brien Building
 PO Box 40600
 Olympia, WA 98504

Representative Hayes
 467 John L. O'Brien Building
 PO Box 40600
 Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Smith and Representative Hayes,

I am writing to thank you for your support of the Stanwood-Camano YMCA Program and ask that you fund this critical community facility using the Washington State Department of Commerce Youth Facilities Grant. The Stanwood-Camano YMCA project was recommended for funding on the Department of Commerce Youth Recreation Facilities Fund priority list and ranked six of nine. However, the Governor proposed funding for the first five projects on the list. At a time when difficult financial decisions must be made in our state, it is important to identify programs that will impact the future growth and stability of our community as a whole. The Stanwood-Camano YMCA will serve the Camano Island residents, of all generations, who currently have very few options.

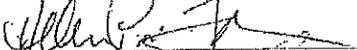
Approximately 100 jobs will be created once the Stanwood-Camano YMCA opens, and the facility is also expected to become an economic driver by acting as a magnet for regional families and seniors. Property has been purchased within walking distance of three schools, a medical facility, senior housing and a commercial shopping hub. Groundbreaking is planned for mid to late summer 2015 and Grand Opening one year later. This 40,000 – 50,000 sqft facility will feature an aquatic center, gymnasium, cardio and weight equipment, group exercise studios, early childhood programs, youth Adventure Zone, teen center, multipurpose rooms, and community gathering spaces. The \$1.8 million YMCA is the largest community effort ever attempted in the area.

To date, \$8.1 million has been raised primarily from Camano Island and Starwood donors. The YMCA of Snohomish County will invest \$6 million, and a community-wide campaign is planned for later in 2015.

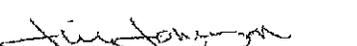
In closing, we support all applicants on the Youth Facilities Fund list, including the Starwood-Camano YMCA, and ask that you fully fund the list of requests.

Sincerely,

Board of County Commissioners
Island County, Washington


Helen Price Johnson, Chair


Richard M. Hannold, Member


Jill Johnson, Member