



# AQUATIC / WELLNESS CENTER

A COMMUNITY PLACE TO GATHER & PLAY...

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Why is this project being funded and built by Streamline Foundation rather than the park district?

The BPRD Strategic Plan 2008-2010 included an objective to meet the goal of developing an indoor aquatic center for the community. The park district further reviewed this objective, its financing and construction options. A method provided for in state law allows for financing and construction with outside investments. This method was the most efficient means available. The Streamline Foundation, based on their proposal presented to the board, was selected to construct and finance this project.

### 2. What is Streamline Foundation?

Streamline Foundation was founded to assist user groups and the Park District in development of public recreation facilities. Streamline is organized as a non-profit organization under State Law and has applied for IRS recognition as a 501C3 entity. It is governed by a board of directors including individuals that are involved in various aspects of recreational activities in the community.

### 3. How does the cost compare of this facility to other similar facilities?

Cost comparisons were requested and received for numerous other aquatic and wellness facilities presently being constructed throughout the Midwest in an effort to assure the best deal for the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District and the taxpayers. Projects that were compared included University of Iowa Aquatic and Wellness center, Colorado Aquatic Center (Commerce City, CO), Aquatic & Wellness Center (Grinnell, IA), Mesa St Aquatic & Wellness Center, Grand Junction, CO). Each of these facilities incorporate a wellness component along with a 50M pool. Since the scope and size of each facility was different the only true comparison was through the cost of construction per sq ft. In comparing these facilities the cost per sq ft ranged from a high of \$296/sq ft for the Colorado Aquatic Center to a low of \$238/sq ft for the University of Iowa Aquatic and Wellness Center. In comparison, the Bismarck Aquatic and Wellness center cost per sq ft is \$210/sq ft including site development costs.

### 4. How will this facility be operated and managed?

The facility will be funded through partnerships with numerous groups from the community. First, Bismarck State College will contribute an estimated \$300,000 annually to the operating budget through the implementation of a student user fee for campus students and faculty. Other contracts for use will be with the Bismarck School District for use by its swim teams and for aquatic based phy-ed programs, the Bismarck Swim Club for swim club use, day care centers, along with other corporate and private rentals and day-to-day recreational use by the public. The Bismarck Parks and Recreation District will be the managing entity of the facility.

### 5. What does the preliminary budget look like?

See enclosed preliminary budget worksheet.

### 6. What is the general operating subsidy of this facility vs. other Park District facilities?

See enclosed preliminary budget worksheet.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONT.)

### **7. Who will own this facility at the end of the rental agreement?**

The facilities ownership at the end of the lease term is open at this time with the options for Park District ownership, BSC ownership, Streamline ownership and continued rental of the facility for public use. This has been left open to allow for future boards to make decisions based on the needs of the community 20 years from now with stipulations that the facility will remain a public facility open to public use now and in the future. The agreements between the park district and Streamline also require a review not less than every five years. The agreement between the park district and BSC requires review by an advisory committee.

### **8. If the ownership of the facility remains under Streamline how does that affect the future of the facility?**

Streamline as a non-profit organization must follow very stringent guidelines as laid out by Federal law. These guidelines include provisions that require a non-profit organization such as Streamline to transfer its assets to a similar 501C3 non-profit organization in the event it was dissolved. Non-profit status also regulates the use of any funds that are gained by the non-profit. Streamline's by-laws include a stipulation that any revenue gains from the facility will be reinvested back into community recreation projects of the Bismarck Park District.

### **9. What is the economic benefit to the community?**

The facility is projected to have a \$1 - \$1.5 million positive annual economic impact to the community by providing local, state, regional, and national aquatic events, including, but not limited to:

- N.D. High School boys and girls regional and state meets
- N.D. Swim Club state meets (short & long course)
- U.S. Swimming Club events (regional & national)
- Diving invitational meets
- US Senior National Swim Meet

### **10. What are some of the programs that are anticipated to be part of this facility?**

Aquatic programs that are anticipated include year-round swimming lessons, scuba diving, masters swimming, open lap swimming, kayaking, water polo, water volleyball, swim team, water basketball, diving, and many other recreational programs. Other recreational opportunities out of the water include preschool programs, an indoor playground, older active adult programs, teen programs, and other wellness center activities.

### **11. Will the facility be open to the public or just for competitive swim teams and BSC?**

This is a public facility. Activities, program and events will be scheduled at the facility with ample time for public use of the pools, wellness center and other features. A major benefit of the Aquatic Center is the flexibility with movable bulk heads to provide three program areas in the main pool. The separate recreation pool will be available for general program and public use separate from the main pool. Scheduling the facility for maximum use will be important for all interests, which is no different than other facilities operated by the park district such as VFW Sports Center, Fore Seasons Center/ Golf Dome, Capital Racquet and Fitness Center, Bismarck Community Bowl.