

# **Case for Support**

**Official Document**

**The Fieldhouse – Nevada  
Located at SCORE Recreation/Athletic Complex**

January 9, 2020

## **Nevada**

Nevada is a strong and vibrant community with excellent services for businesses and families to grow and thrive. The retail market is good, we have a strong industrial base, our hospital is newly renovated with first class care, and our school district is exceptional with updated and modern facilities. In addition, Nevada has been designated as a Main Street USA Community, has a major improvement project planned for the downtown business district, and is experiencing growth in both the West Industrial Park and East Business Park.

Over the past 20 years, Nevada has experienced sustained growth. This has largely been attributed to strategic planning, starting in 1998 with the 2020 Vision for Nevada, Iowa: “People Opportunity, Community, Home” (Vision 2020). In 2015, community stakeholders revisited Vision 2020 and identified unfinished priorities resulting in the Nevada Vision 2020 Capstone project unveiled in 2017. This joint project with the Nevada Community School District included the construction of a high school baseball facility, an indoor field house, and the future of Gates Memorial Hall.

Expanded development in residential, commercial and industrial areas over the past 20 years has created a greater tax base for the community and schools. Because of this, community services have increased, allowing for the opportunity to attract additional families and businesses that call Nevada their home.

Libraries, pools, parks, trails and recreation programs are important and attractive assets to any community. Such amenities have been a vital element to many citizens of Nevada, and our neighboring communities of Eastern Story County. Our SCORE Recreation/Athletic Complex is thriving with activities and events, yet the demand for youth and adult recreation programming and facilities continues to grow.

Community input data from the Vision 2020 strategic planning study indicated a strong desire for the expansion of recreation opportunities to improve the overall quality of life for Nevada citizens. Specific goals developed as a result of that input and planning included:

- “Create a multi-sport, year-round recreation facility and youth center funded through a public-private partnership. Components may include a pool or aquatic facility, a YMCA/health complex, a soccer/baseball/softball complex, a new gymnasium, etc.”
- “Complete Greenbelt Trail-way through the City, which would include an educational component.”
- Connect the Nevada Greenbelt Trail-way to other trails.

Over the past 20 years, the development of the SCORE Recreation/Athletic Complex has provided our community with a multi-use recreational footprint. We now have Fawcett Family Aquatic Center, soccer fields, 4-plex baseball/softball fields, a Pavilion, playgrounds, tennis courts, outdoor basketball court, high school baseball stadium, and an integrated hiking/biking trail system which connects to the Greenbelt Trail. The final component of this footprint is a year-round indoor recreational facility – The Fieldhouse.

## Project Background

In 2016, the City of Nevada and Story County Medical Center developed a partnership to begin the process of information gathering for a multi-faceted indoor health and wellness center. The purpose of the Story County Wellness and Recreation Center Task Force was to encourage healthy lifestyles and improve the overall health of the community, enhance quality of life, improve the attractiveness of our community, and create new opportunities for both Nevada and Eastern Story County. The hospital contracted with RDG to complete a Wellness and Recreation Center Study which was completed in August of 2017. The study found the following:

- A facility will add new opportunities for all members of the community and surrounding area.
- The facility will enhance the ability to attract new business and residents to the community.
- Identification of underserved needs in recreation and wellness in Nevada and Eastern Story County.
- Interest in an indoor walking track, gymnasium space, and multi-purpose “flex” areas.
- For most citizens, an indoor pool, is at the top of the “nice to have” list but not a necessity for this facility.

The study also focused on location for the facility, floor plan options, and a cost estimate for the design and construction of a community wide Wellness and Recreation Center. Although the city, hospital, and community data provided validation for the project, the Task Force deemed the \$15-\$18 Million-dollar cost estimate to be unattainable. The project concept was then moved to City leaders to develop a more affordable plan.

In 2018, (using the previously developed Vision 2020 and Task Force data) the Parks & Recreation Board and staff began work to conceptually revise the facility. Priorities were identified to be 2-3 basketball courts, drop-down batting cages, a multi-purpose area, and indoor walking/jogging track, office space, and restroom areas. The City worked to create schematics for a Fieldhouse facility to be located between the aquatic center and newly planned high school baseball stadium, with plans for construction to be simultaneous with the construction for the baseball stadium. Due to financial considerations, the Fieldhouse project was put on hold.

In 2019, the City Council was able to ear-mark \$4.5 million for an indoor recreation facility. Both the Park Board and City Council voted to send out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for design and architectural services for a pre-engineered steel building to be located at the SCORE Recreation/Athletic Complex. The scope of the facility is to be a multipurpose sports and activity venue for youth and adult recreational activities. The building would consist of administrative space, lobby space, and fieldhouse. The project was to be between \$5-7 Million. RMH Architects of Ames was awarded a contract to provide these services.

The purpose of this building would be to act as a year-round program-based facility, with affordable and functional space/amenities that will serve Nevada and its citizens, including neighboring communities for many years to come. Programs that could be expanded include: the Central Iowa

Recreation League (youth volleyball, flag football, basketball, baseball and softball), the addition of various adult programs (basketball, volleyball, pickle ball), senior programs, early childhood programs, recreational walking and jogging, youth sports clinics and skill development, along with various other activities and opportunities for open recreation and community events with a family focus.

## **The Fieldhouse**

The Fieldhouse will be an approximate 40,000 sq. ft facility on the main floor with another 16,000 sq. ft on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level that will be the most attractive indoor recreation facility in Story County. The Fieldhouse will be multi-functional, multi-purpose, and used for multi-generational activities and events. The building will house the following:

- **Gymnasium Space:** 3 Full-Size High School courts to allow for age appropriate practice times, open time for shooting, house games for the CIRL, potential to host tournaments for basketball and volleyball, and more importantly allow growth of all recreational indoor programs for youth and adults as well as open/free play.
- **Indoor Play Area:** This will be an area that parents and young children will appreciate during the long winter months or while older siblings are participating in other recreational programs. The space will be a focal point of the indoor lobby/social area.
- **Elevated Walking/Running Track:** The Elevated Track will be 3 lanes approximately 7 laps to a mile.
- **Flex-Space Court/Turf Area:** The flex-space court/indoor turf area is 16,000 sq. ft. of unlimited potential. An area like this does not exist in Story County. It can be used for a multitude of activities including, but not limited to, soccer, football, baseball, softball, ultimate football, lacrosse, etc. No longer will wet weather keep participants from practicing and improving their skills. Most every program we currently offer could utilize this area for in-season and off-season work. Plus, the added benefit of additional programs and open/free play.
- **Batting Cages:** 2 Full-size batting cages will drop down from the ceiling in the flex-space. This will allow for skill development year-round in hitting and pitching for both baseball and softball.
- **Lobby/Social Space:** This space is designed to be welcoming and open. Seating, glass walls to see courts and flex-space area, vending, and a common area for greeting facility users.
- **Multi-Purpose Area:** Upstairs, there will be approximately 6,200 sq. ft. of additional multi-purpose space. This space could be used for a variety of recreational and health programming not currently offered in the community.
- **Offices:** Parks and Recreation offices will be located at this facility to provide supervision and oversight of the various users and programs taking place in the facility.

## **Comparable Facilities in Other Communities**

Story County and surrounding areas do not have a facility of this type. The closest public recreational facilities include 3C's in Huxley, Story City's Recreation Center, Ames Community Center, and the YMCA in Marshalltown. Most other facilities include workout and wellness facilities, which this facility does not include. The Fieldhouse will be program-based and offer activities according to need within the community, all while not competing with services offered by private entities. It is also the thought that some private entities may want to partner with the City to offer additional programs and services that they cannot host due to space limitations at their facility, etc.

## **School District Support for The Fieldhouse**

The Nevada Community School District and City of Nevada have a good working relationship in regards to facility sharing. The 28E Agreement and Facilities Use Agreement between the two entities allows for facility sharing of all facilities including gymnasium space, field space, building space, etc. Each entity is granted first priority of their own facilities and the other receives second priority within the scheduling process. The addition of The Fieldhouse would only strengthen that agreement. The Fieldhouse would be another entity that the school could utilize as a second priority. According to Athletic Director, Dustin Smith, "I see the value of this facility in use of the Flex-Space Indoor Court/Turf area and Track for Nevada Athletic Programs". The added courts in the new Fieldhouse for recreation programming will offer the school more flexibility in scheduling their own current gym space. There is potential that they could utilize some gym space, but more likely, the Flex-Space would be of higher consideration.

## **How You Can Make a Difference**

The Fieldhouse will be a vital component when attracting families to come live in Nevada and surrounding communities. Nevada and Eastern Story County residents will have better quality of life services and be able to retain more of its citizens, because living here will be attractive from youth through adulthood. The Fieldhouse is sure to not only serve our current population; it will also be a draw for young families wanting to move to the area.

When families are deciding where they want to live, they look at many factors, including schools, hospitals, housing opportunities, proximity to services, shopping and attractions, to name a few. Having quality of life opportunities says a lot about the type of community where people are looking to find a place to call home. Completing this project will be a positive selling point for a community committed to quality of life services and a family first mentality.

Raising money for important causes is not new to the people of Nevada. Our citizens have always helped provide philanthropic support when a significant project needs to be completed. In the last 20 years, \$4.5 million was raised for SCORE, \$3.9 million for the Tope Auditorium, and Story Medical has

raised \$3.1 million to provide updated facilities to enhance quality health care. We give. That's what our citizens, past and present, do. We give because we love Nevada.

Now is the time to give. A group of dedicated volunteers, along with leaders throughout the community are planning a capital campaign to raise the funds necessary to complete The Fieldhouse.

The Fieldhouse, as designed, is projected to cost \$7 Million. With \$4.5 Million already secured, additional private dollars are needed to complete the project. To support this project, charitable contributions, which can extend over a 5-year period will solidify the future of this project. Gifts can be made by cash, check, grain, stock, or real property. Pledges and payroll deductions will allow people to be as generous as they would like.

Each person has a stake in making our community a better place in which to live. Support for this project through generous giving will help to improve the quality of life in Nevada and Story County for generations to come. Completing this project, The Fieldhouse, will be the final exclamation point to a project 20 years in the making.