

From: Matthew Bergan <matthewbergan@gmail.com>

Date: May 29, 2024 at 1:05:23 PM AKDT

To: saimajohnson@gmail.com

Cc: Tessa Baldwin <TBaldwin@kotzebue.org>, Ron Johnson <RJohnson@kotzebue.org>, Tracy Schaeffer <arcticot@gmail.com>

Subject: PRAC (City of Kotz Parks & Rec Advisory Committee) recommendation for Grain/Cain Capital Building

Madame Mayor,

At its most recent meeting (April 2024), the City PRAC discussed the potential availability of the Grain/Cain Capital Building for the City Parks & Rec Department program space.

As a committee, we feel it would be better to invest money on revitalizing the Rec Center than to invest money (and time) into the Grain/Cain Building.

The Grain/Cain Building is a shell with no plumbing and a limited space. After the equipment is put in the building, it will have little space to complete anything else in there such as having exercise classes. We also wouldn't have the opportunity to have any racquetball/pickleball/basketball courts. It would cost several hundred thousand dollars (up to \$1M) to make the space ready and then it would still not be adequate.

The Rec center has its issues, but it has much more of what is wanted by the Community. The half court, the racquetball courts, the weight rooms, room for exercise classes, shower rooms, changing spaces and saunas. While we are aware it may cost a million dollars to fix, it would cost \$15-20 million to build a new building and that is after the cost of demolition and site clean-up of the old building.

The Parks & Rec Department with the PRAC seeks to provide opportunities to residents to increase health, well being and connection. Our community has experienced significant challenges in recent years including losing access to a Recreation Center, then the isolation of COVID19 and the stress of increasing costs to meet basic needs. In order to help increase the physical and social emotional health of our residents, we need to have year round access to healthy activities.

Sincerely,

Matthew I. Bergan, PE
Chair
City of Kotzebue Parks & Rec Advisory Committee
907-412-1591