

Y closer to move to Ironworks

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The Stateline Family YMCA is nearly ready to take the major step of approving the floor plan for a new facility at the Ironworks complex in downtown Beloit.

YMCA officials have looked at renovating the current site at 1865 S. Riverside Drive for over a year, but have found the cost estimates to be staggering.

“Nothing has been done at the Beloit branch since 1991, and when we started getting costs, it ended up being 40 percent more than to start new,” said Doug Britt, executive director at Stateline Family YMCA.

Realizing that the community’s needs have changed since the current YMCA site was built, Britt says a strategic plan has been developed for the future.

That strategic plan includes moving operations to the 80,000-square-foot site that has been undergoing extensive renovation at the Ironworks complex.

“We ended up talking with Hendricks (Commercial Properties) at the Ironworks and it was a no-brainer that we could save close to \$6 million going new,” Britt said.

In order to move to the new site, the Stateline Family YMCA needs to raise at least \$7 million. Nearly \$5 million has been collected thus far, Britt said.

“All of that has been raised by the community,” Britt said. “We are just shy of the amount needed to move into Phase 2 of the project.”

Phase 1 consisted of the YMCA’s fundraising effort. Phase 2 will include approving a floor plan and schematics before moving on to the construction phase.

“We would go out to bid and start the process of building the new YMCA once we get to Phase 2,” Britt said.

The proposed downtown YMCA is to feature a basketball court and life center that is nearly three-times the size of the one at the current facility.



Look of the future

This rendering shows what an indoor waterpark area could look like once completed at the proposed Stateline Family YMCA facility to be in the Ironworks complex.

A group exercise room would complement an interactive space designed for children and four multipurpose rooms will expand programming options.

“One of those rooms will have a kitchen so we could use it for healthy cooking classes,” Britt said. “Another piece we’re looking at is an indoor water park.”

Moving would also mean the Stateline Family YMCA daycare would be able to expand and more children could be accepted into the program.

“The Y has a terrific daycare and a lot of our employees at the Ironworks have babies,” said Mark Membrino, project manager and vice president of Asset Management with Hendricks Commercial Properties. “It sure would make lives easier.”

In addition to providing more family-friendly programming options, Membrino believes the YMCA move could further enhance downtown Beloit’s popularity.

“The YMCA coming to downtown Beloit is huge and the fundraising is going really well,” Membrino said. “We think it is a huge part of what could be in the Ironworks.”

The Stateline Family YMCA serves 16,000 members in the Stateline Area. The Beloit branch sees nearly 400,000 visitors annually.

Donations to the project can be made by visiting <http://statelinefamilyymca.org/support-the-y/>. Calls and questions can be directed to Doug Britt at 608-365-2261.