

YMCA set for move downtown

By Sophie Harris sharris@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Saturday, August 8, 2015 10:00 am

Plans for the Stateline Family YMCA's move to the Ironworks complex are officially underway.

YMCA Executive Director Doug Britt said the architect heading the project is Zimmerman Studios, and the contractor is Corporate Contractors Inc. of Beloit.

Britt said the goal is to open the new facility no later than Feb. 15, 2017.

"Zimmerman Studios have done a lot of YMCAs," Britt said. "They've done a lot of work reclaiming space."

Britt said the move has been planned for quite some time, but more specific planning will begin in the next two weeks.

Stateline Family YMCA officials looked at renovating the current site at 1865 S. Riverside Drive, but decided it would be too costly.

The Ironworks location is about 80,000 square feet. Britt said the complex isn't too much bigger, but it has more usable space.

"It's going to be more efficient," Britt said. "The current space has a lot of hallways and staircases, and this will be more open and inviting."

Britt said there's no multipurpose space in the current facility, which is a limiting factor.

"At the new building, there are at least five rooms that are multipurpose," Britt said. "We are going to have a new youth space where we can do programming that is interactive."

Britt said the new facility also will feature an aerobics studio, a yoga studio, a basketball court, and a large life center. Childcare amenities will improve, too.

"The daycare space will increase because the rooms will be bigger. We can have more age groups here," Britt said.

Britt said he thinks the the YMCA is ready to move on to "Phase 2" of fundraising efforts. According to Britt, initial funds were raised through campaigns with key donors in the community.



A glimpse at the future

This rendering shows what the proposed Stateline Family YMCA could look like once completed at the Ironworks complex in downtown Beloit.

“The second phase will kick off around September,” Britt said. “We have a two million dollar goal. This is the right spot for us to move forward with this project.”

“We are really excited. The location is ideal, because we can service both sides of the community,” he added. “We are closer to the downtown area.”

Britt said once the current YMCA building is vacated, Hendricks Commercial Properties will take over that location.