




City of North Port
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Peter D. Lear, City Manager
Cari Branco, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Tricia Wisner, Assistant Director 

THROUGH: Sandy Pfundheller, Director

SUBJECT: Acoustics and Sound Systems at Morgan and Mullen Centers

DATE: February 25, 2019

In order to accommodate events with large anticipated attendance numbers, the gymnasiums at the George Mullen Activity Center and Morgan Family Community Center are often sought out to double as event or presentation spaces. Due to their size and surface features, gymnasiums require sound systems and acoustical panels to improve sound quality and minimize echoing. Parks & Recreation staff worked with City IT staff to evaluate the gymnasiums and identify options to improve the sound quality at both locations.

Morgan Family Community Center Recommendations

Upon review, the in-house wiring and speakers at the Morgan Center are in good condition and in line with current technology. The feedback and difficulties experienced during a Town Hall Meeting in March 2018 largely stemmed from a) the lack of acoustical panels and b) from issues associated with the set up of the required recording system. In order to improve sound quality, it is recommended that acoustical panels are installed throughout the approximate 12,000 sq. ft. gymnasium. A preliminary estimate for the acoustical panels and rental of the lift for installation is \$25,350. Installation would be completed by Facilities Maintenance staff.

George Mullen Activity Center Recommendations

Due to its age and years of use, the sound system at the Mullen Center is in poor condition and current technology is far superior to the existing system. It is recommended that the system is replaced. The estimated cost for the equipment and installation of an updated sound system is \$35,990. Additionally, similar to the Morgan Center, it is recommended that acoustical panels are installed throughout the approximate 7,000 sq. ft. gymnasium. A preliminary estimate for the acoustical panels and rental of the lift for installation is \$13,370. Installation would be completed by Facilities Maintenance staff.

Based on the information received, Parks & Recreation anticipates submitting a Capital Improvement Project for Fiscal Year 2020 in the amount of \$25,350 for the Morgan Center, and \$49,360 for the Mullen Center, resulting in a total of \$74,710.

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