

Spend the money on people, not on new buildings

The YMCA has stated a need to consolidate multiple facilities into one for cost-cutting measures, but I don't see how selling and abandoning properties and building a new shiny facility at Tuhey Park or Morrison Road accomplishes that. All that does is spend money and create more abandoned buildings within the city. But hey, we have this brand-new building to show off! Doesn't it look nice? Wow, our mayor did such a good job helping to push our agenda! But wait... Where are all the customers?

If the YMCA truly needs to consolidate, I would respect that provided they utilized one of their existing facilities. If the powers that be feel that participation is down within their programs, building a shiny new facility in a new location isn't going to tap into new customers enough to fix the problem. YMCA needs more community outreach for that. They need to work on their customer base, the hardest part of any business. It's not going to be easy, as nothing is easy during a pandemic.

I don't want to diminish the need for the YMCA, because I do believe they play an important part in the community. But don't destroy Tuhey Park. Don't develop on Morrison. If the YMCA truly needs to consolidate, they can utilize one of the facilities they currently have and remodel as necessary. Then spend any remaining funds previously allocated for the new facility on revitalizing the YMCA's programs, which led to the need for consolidation in the first place. It's not as flashy as a new facility, and it won't look as good during elections, but the programs they offer are the only thing that really benefits the community.

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