

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

DATE: September 11, 2015

FROM: Jefferson City Parks and Recreation and Lincoln University

SUBJECT: University Wellness and Parks Multi-Purpose Recreation Center

History was made in Jefferson City on September 9 and 10, 2015 with the approval and signing of an Agreement between Lincoln University and the City of Jefferson Parks and Recreation. Both entities are excited to announce the approval of the document by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Lincoln University Board of Curators, which cements a year long process aimed at improving both university and community services and facilities. This sets the stage for the parties to proceed toward bidding of this multi-million dollar construction project, and seeking public input regarding the programming and operational opportunities the project will make possible.

The facility will be constructed on the east side of Lafayette between Jefferson City High School and Lincoln University's Dwight T. Reed Stadium, and will occupy a portion of the current Lincoln University softball field, which will be relocated. The facility will be approximately 79,000 square feet on three levels. The main level consisting of approximately 46,800 square feet will house four full size gymnasiums (with an alternative layout of six smaller courts when preferable), plus space for offices, a lobby area, restrooms, front desk, concessions, storage, and meeting rooms. The upper level of the building is approximately 23,150 square feet and will contain a fitness center, offices, meeting/classrooms, restrooms and an elevated walking track. A basement level of approximately 9,800 square feet will be used by the Lincoln University Athletic Department.

The upper level of the building contains approximately 4,500 square feet for a fitness center combining cardio as well as weight activities. This portion of the facility is designed primarily for the wellness of Lincoln University students, faculty, and staff, as well as City staff.

One of the purposes for the building is to facilitate and enable the growth of Parks and Recreation programs which are now conducted primarily in local school and church gymnasiums. Some youth and adult programs which have inadequate time and space in those facilities will be relocated to the new facility. In addition, there will be greatly expanded opportunities for new programs focusing on youth and adult sports as well as Wellness/Fitness programs for which there are no current facilities available.

The facility will also be able to accommodate youth sports tournaments and other large events. The dual four/six court design will enable both basketball and volleyball tournaments at various skill levels to utilize the facility, along with other types of sporting events such as archery, gymnastics, dance, and

others. Push back bleacher seating will accommodate approximately 1,200 spectators for sporting events. For non-sporting events, the main level will be capable of accommodating up to approximately 2000 people.

In addition to organized programs, Lincoln University students and the public will have access to the facility for drop in play. The operational goal is to have at least one of the six courts open for drop in use most of the time each day.

Costs for Lincoln University students to use the facility will be covered by a student activity fee collected as a part of their academic registration process. Separate fees will apply to others using the facility. Fee levels are still under discussion by the University and Parks and Recreation Commission.

Architects anticipate that the bidding process will occur this fall, with construction beginning prior to the end of the year. The construction process is anticipated to take nearly one year with the goal of opening the facility in late 2016.

The facility will offer many new opportunities for programs and activities both for Lincoln University students and the public. Additional details will be forthcoming soon regarding sponsorship and naming opportunities for various amenities related to the building, and regarding further opportunities for public input.