



City to study renovation plan for gymnasium

Times Tribune staff

In early February, the East Palo Alto City Council will consider whether to renovate the city recreation center at 550 Bell St.

The gymnasium and swimming pool at the recreation facility are in such a state of disrepair that they are unusable. The office space and meeting rooms in the complex are used, however.

The Bell Street complex covers almost an entire city block, except for the corner of Euclid Avenue

East Palo Alto

and Bell Street, where a private house stands.

The council has had a Redwood City architectural firm, Robert E. Lyon & Associates, study the center to determine the extent of needed repairs.

One of the architects will tell the council in February what repairs are needed and how much they will cost.

Robert Alexander, the city's director of recreation, said preliminary cost projections show that it would cost about \$227,000 to repair the swimming pool and anywhere from \$90,000 to \$250,000 to repair the gymnasium, depending on what repairs are made.

The gymnasium needs a new floor, new basketball hoops and probably other repairs, the extent of which are unknown. The gym has been used occasionally for non-recreation events, such as a Senior Center bazaar in December, but it is unusable as a recreation facility, City Councilwoman Barbara Mouton said.

The swimming pool has not been used for many years. It needs substantial resurfacing and plumbing work.

However, Mouton said, if the council eventually decides to buy the Ravenswood High School site, which includes a swimming pool, it may not be necessary to renovate the Bell Street swimming pool.

Mouton said the city has some money set aside for repairs to the recreation center. She said the council will need to decide exactly which repairs to do first.

She said the consensus of the council is to go ahead with some renovation work on the center.

Times Tribune staff photo by Joe Melena

The gymnasium at the East Palo Alto recreation center is in such a state of disrepair that it is unusable. The City Council in February will consider whether to renovate the center.