

Ground broken for new community center

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It seems as if all those clichés—better late than never, a job well done, a dream come true, more to come—apply to the Cyclone Area Community Center, which had its groundbreaking Monday.

The event marks the beginning of construction for phase one of the center—the ground work and building. It also marks the kick-off of phase two fund raising for the \$650,000 facility.

The Cyclone Area Community Center—or CACC—will be open for use by Ames residents, ISU students, Story County and other area residents. Auto shows, 4-H events, indoor sports, horse or dog shows, and ice events are among the happenings expected to take place at the CACC.

THE IDEA for a center of this type was sparked about five years ago. At that time, it was scheduled to be mainly an ice facility. But over the years, proposed uses were expanded.

The 120-by 220-foot community center will provide ice 5 to 6 months of the year—during the winter months. During the remainder of the year, the center will be open for other uses.

It was in about 1976 that the idea became a firm proposal and fund raising started. At that time, the Greater Ames Ice Association formed a steering committee—headed by Wayne Workman. A six month fund raising was projected.

At the end of six months, less than \$150,000 was raised toward the then \$1.2 million goal for the facility. At that point, the steering committee met and approved construction of the facility in a four-phase system. This system has been revised to three phases.

AS THE system stands now, phase one involves ground work and construction of the building. Installation of the ice system will take place in phase two. Phase three includes heating, bleachers, the concrete floor, additions and revisions to the dressing rooms, improvements to parking

and lighting, and other miscellaneous building improvements.

The \$250,000 cost for the first phase has been raised by the committee from pledges of cash, labor and materials. This figure includes \$50,000 from Hardee's, \$30,000 from Sundstrand, and \$25,000 from the Story County Supervisors.

ISU and the city entered into a long-term lease agreement for the CACC site. The land is being leased from the State, for 99 years with no rental fees involved.

THE FACILITY will be located at the southeast corner of the University Dairy Farm, west of the old Ames Golf and Country Club.

The CACC second phase committee, headed by Phil Pearson, D V M, has set its fund raising goal at \$200,000. Verle Burgason, co-chairman for fund raising in this phase said plans are to raise the \$200,000 in the next two months.

People probably wonder, "Why this type of facility with Hilton Coliseum in Ames?" Pearson commented. He explained Hilton is used for various events—not only hockey and other ice related events. He said it's tough to obtain sufficient ice time and there are conflicts with other activities.

It is important to have good access to good skating facilities," Pearson said.

Exercise is important and ice skating is an excellent way to obtain it."

PEARSON also mentioned ISU's "fine team sport" in hockey and the "fine young people who have a sincere interest in hockey."

Plans are for the CACC to be self supporting. User fees will pay for operations and maintenance of the facility. Once constructed and paid for, the community center will be turned over to the City of Ames. Rental fees have not been decided.

Persons wanting further information should contact Pearson, Burgason or Waldo Wegner, co-fund raising chairman for this phase or write to the CACC, P O Box 42 Ames.



Gov. Robert D. Ray, left, was on hand Monday for the Cyclone Area Community Center's groundbreaking. The event marked the start of construction on the facility which will serve Ames and area residents and students. In addition to providing an ice facility, the community center will be available for a variety of uses ranging from sports to hobby

shows. Among those at the groundbreaking were several young hockey enthusiasts, at right, members of the committees working on the center plans, city and ISU officials and reporters. Phase two fund raising for the facility is now underway. (Tribune photo by Vickie LoPiccolo)