

# Public invited to give input on new YMCA

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*Contributing Writer*

City Council will hold Special Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 13, to review, explore, investigate, and to take testimony on the proposed YMCA facility, according to North Royalton Council President, Vince Gentile. He said that this meeting, which is open to the public, will allow residents to have public input, which will help define the needs of both the residents and the region. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road.

City administration recently purchased the old Avalon Center at 11409 State Road to house the North Royalton YMCA, at a cost of \$2.1 million. A memorandum of intent with Greater Cleveland YMCA to redevelop the property has also been drafted. City Council will have to pass the measure to finalize the purchase. When all is said and done, the city will own the property and, together with the YMCA, will operate it.

"This will really define the future of our community," said Mayor Bob Stefanik, who reiterated that "we will accomplish this without raising taxes. The cost to purchase the property will come from the Recreation Capital Improvement Fund and possibly the Futures Capital Improvement Fund, which can only be used on these types of purchases."

Membership cost has not been determined yet, but there will be a reduction in fees for

North Royalton residents, as part of the city's participation, said North Royalton Economic Development Director, Tom Jordan.

Chief Executive Officer and President of the YMCA of Greater Cleveland, Glenn Haley, that the the facility will feature a pool, a fitness center, health and wellness center, member services, aerobic studio, gymnasium, a yoga and pilate center, a childcare center. There is also a possibility of a community center. There are also discussions going on with local hospitals to locate there, said Haley. According to Rick Haase, Vice President of Marketing, Member and Community Engagement, the North Royalton YMCA is expected to employ about 8-12 full time employees and about 85 part time employees (35 hours and less). The measure will be brought before City Council this month. If approved, the project will move forward. It is projected to take about eighteen months to fully complete the project. "We hope to be operating in the late fall of 2011," said Haley. During that time period, fund raising process, which as already begun, will continue.

To stay informed about the YMCA of Greater Cleveland and the proposed North Royalton project, visit the website <http://ymca4nr.org>. Look to future editions of the Royalton Recorder stay updated on this new YMCA.

Residents are invited to attend the April 13th meeting to learn more about the project and give input.