



Survey Feedback on Building 21

The results of the first monthly survey are in and we'd like to express our thanks to the over 770 respondents who took the time to submit their recommendations. Most, though not all, took the survey seriously and provided very constructive recommendations to be considered. It is our goal to develop a service for the community that is both needed and different from what is already available as we refurbish and repurpose this historic building. Many may not realize that Building 21 was built by Italian POWs in 1942 and has served many different purposes since its construction almost 75 years ago. It is important that we find the right purpose for this landmark and that it meet a need in the community. Though the feedback was diverse and in some cases very creative, it is important that we set context on a few things:

- a. The building is a historic building and cannot/should not be significantly altered lest we illegally violate the protections it is afforded as a historic structure. [I.e. It's not going to become a roller rink]
- b. Funds for renovation are not unlimited so we have to keep any modifications within reasonable limits. [I.e. We cannot afford to overhaul it completely to bring in a big name retailer – if option 2 below does win, it will have to be a business that will agree to fit within the existing general design]
- c. Because of the small population which works and resides on this post and because of Bldg. 21's location in proximity to the Town Center, the Town Center Terrace and the Housing Area, in accordance with standard zoning practices for city management, we are looking for something consistent with its location and the needs of the community. [I.e. Another single soldier facility akin to Shockwave is not suitable in this case]

That said, the top four contenders from the feedback collected thus far include:

- 1 – Community Center and Family Activity Center w/ designer Yogurt Shop [Likely to entail: 1 side for younger ages (Ages 1 – 8) and the other side geared toward teens and adults, w/ rooms to reserve for FRG meetings or birthday parties. May be able to integrate a healthy juice beverage option like Jamba Juice].
- 2 – Casual Dining Restaurant [IHOP or other sit down restaurant]
- 3 – Retail Book Store with coffee shop and/or chai tea and fruit juices.
- 4 – Consolidated ACS Center w/ all services moved from different locations across post

Please rank order these four. We will accept recommendations from the community until the end of March on these four options and will publish the results in early April.

On a final note, there were a number of sound recommendations captured in the write-in blanks on the last survey that will be considered in other areas but that simply do not fit in Bldg 21. We will look to see if those can be integrated into future initiatives at other locations on post within funding available.

Thanks for your interest in making the Fort Irwin Community achieve "Every Day Better!"


COL Scott Taylor
Garrison Commander