

Community Center Feasibility Study Task Force

Meeting Minutes June 23,2022

Meeting called to order at 4:33 by Chairperson Fritz Luft.

Present: Fritz Luft, Jamie Balliett, Alice Van Oot, Andrea Reed, Tracy Murphy, Steve Kaser, Bonny Campbell-Runyon, Keith Campbell, David Eisen (Abacus consultant).

Absent: Kyle Wibby (as of June 30 no longer on the task force).

Minutes from 5/26/22 approved unanimously.

Bonny volunteered to take minutes.

Fritz read an email he had written on the goal and assignment of the Task Force for public transparency.

During a public meeting held by the Governor Prence Planning Committee a comment was mistakenly made that the property was for housing. Alice noted we should discuss this at the next meeting.

Kyle Wibby is leaving the Task Force. Tracy is willing to step in for the remaining few meetings as representative to the Rec. Committee.

Bonny and Fritz will meet with Mark Wilson, interim principal at the NRMS, to tour art facilities and other spaces available for residents/groups to use outside of school hours.

David presented 6 rough plans for small, medium and large community centers with and without the COA. The next step would be to create a generic site plan to show the public what the 3 versions would look like with parking, open space etc. He noted people prefer a design which gives the feeling of the inside connected to the outside. The 6 designs were discussed and it was noted that the designs are inspiring.

Andrea is in favor of the large plan with a gym, possibly with a second story track above. She liked the concept of an open play area for multi-generational interaction and a fireplace. She wants the plan to reflect program needs we are short of and might consider daycare and affordable housing. David can create a plan with a second story which will need an elevator. The site will determine if a 1 or 2 story building is appropriate.

Bonny wondered about combining the multipurpose (MP) spaces in the small and medium plans to gain one larger space that could be partitioned. David said it doesn't work to combine all the MP spaces.

George asked about parking allowance for a large center. David said it is site dependent with other considerations being zoning restrictions, on street parking, shared parking. George commented we shouldn't let present regulations restrict the Task Force's recommendations. Andrea asked about other parking choices ie. underground (very expensive) or covered (hurts streetscape).

Tracy, Jamie and Fritz want a gym to be the biggest priority, even if it is a smaller gym. David: a smaller gym could still serve the needs of the community and would be bigger than a pickleball court.

Jamie felt the Library Committee made a mistake asking the architect for a big design which might turn people away (cost). He favored narrowing down the choices to 3 versions (plans 1,4 and 6).

Alice agreed with Jamie about a large center and favored a plan that doesn't include the COA. She also wanted less MP rooms that were larger. David said a 1,000 sq. Ft. MP room works well for a lot of things. Alice suggested we go back to the survey to make sure the design reflects what people want.

George asked if David would be writing a report (yes) and suggested David create 3 models for a center with side bars noting who is served by the spaces and square footage, to be shown at meetings with the public.

David has photos showing how spaces can be used and will send them to Fritz to share with the Task Force and for use in public meetings. Photos show how indoor and outdoor spaces are linked.

A pool was discussed. David recommended it be built somewhere else.

Next steps:

*David will create 3 options including a gym: Small and Medium without a COA, large with a COA, noting who each model will serve. He and Fritz will work on the plans and send them to the committee for comments before the next meeting.

*Discuss the plans at the next meeting before presenting to the public.

*Plan a public meeting to show options with site plans/photos.
George will supply David with site plans as models for how a community center would fit on a site.

*Get public feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20.

Submitted by Bonny Campbell-Runyon