

Cook County Community Center Steering Committee

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

A. Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Sporn at 8:43 a.m. with the following members present: Paul Sporn, Sue Hakes, Diane Booth, Andra Lilienthal, Gene Glader, Jeanne Anderson, Cathi Williams, Maggie Barnard, Fritz Sobanja, Sue Prom, Tom Wacholz, Chris Francis.

Guests: The following guests were also present at the meeting: Bruce Martinson, Wade Cole, Pat Campanaro, Stan Tull, Mike Carlson, Kevin Peterson (YMCA Board of Directors, Chair), Molly Hoffman.

Comments:

- I am glad everyone is keeping a positive attitude. Sue H.
- I am looking forward to having grandchildren use the new facility. Cathi W.
- I am really glad the YMCA has become involved. Maggie B.
- The return on our investment whether it is \$8, or \$9 million will be much greater in the long run when we see the community use of the facility. Fritz S.
- It is nice to be back at the table and moving forward with the project. Wade C.
- There seems to be a lot of positive energy out there. Tom W.
- Sorry I can't be here – glad to see the project moving forward. Bob F.
- My fear is that if the people in political power within the community changes this fall, this project might not happen. You need to keep moving forward. Stan T.
- Thank you for all the hard work you have done as a committee on this project. Pat C.
- I have enjoyed watching the process. Mike C.
- I am a concerned citizen that is sorry to hear about any personal attacks members on the committee may have experienced. That is not right. Molly H.

B. Review and approval of minutes from the last meeting. A correction was made to the time we started the last meeting from 8:40 p.m. to a.m. (typo) A motion was made by Fritz to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Andra. All ayes.

C. Refine the concept plan before moving into design development.

1. Architectural / engineering discussion: The building concept includes 20,000 sq. ft. that would be remodeled with another 12,000 sq. ft. of new space added. Concerns about the depth of bedrock were expressed. Fritz said it would be between 6.6' and approximately 10' deep. Beth discussed the following:

- The rooms along the east corridor of the current community gym consisting of locker room, teacher lounge, janitor closet and bathrooms could probably be part of the community center.
- She would like to see that Mitch Dorr's room on the old stage to the north of the community gym stay for use by the industrial arts program.
- The home economics room could also be used on occasion since it is located right next door.
- The old locker room is used by visiting teams so if we could turn that into two locker rooms and be used for both visiting teams and for people using the gymnasium and / or fitness center that would make sense.

- The teacher's lounge with bathroom, sink, etc. would work well for a child watch area without a lot of renovation.
- Our number of youth will decrease again next year by another 25 students to around 425 youth.
- It was suggested that the group tour the areas before further discussion.
- After the tour, Chris suggested that the area upstairs above the gymnasium and / or pool area where there will be a second floor would work well for a fitness area.
- Very important that the industrial arts classes have space to add on for additional classes was emphasized by Jeanne.

As a result of recent discussions by the County Board and the Steering Committee regarding the design team, Meyer Group and JLG Architects have offered to adjust their roles and responsibilities for the project going forward. They have proposed an amendment to their contract accordingly. ORB and the county attorney will review the amendment prior to bringing it to the County for approval.

- 2. Proceed with engineering assessment of west wing of the school.** This needs to be done before the Steering Committee and the design committee meets. The timeline would be before the next Steering Committee meeting.
- 3. Review with design team:** Questions:
 - Can we use alternative energy with the hot water heat that is already here and could biomass, solar, geothermal or other sources be used?
 - Is it possible or a good design to have a walking track that is level in some lanes and maybe has uphill areas in other lanes? This is not in the current cost estimate.
 - Can electric bleachers be used that can be retracted? This is not in the current cost estimate.
 - The design team should be coming up to the next Steering Committee meeting.

D. Public Relations

- 1. Letter writing, WTIP, FAQ flyer, Cook County News Herald, Website, Social Media:**
 - We need to do something for public relations. Everyone needs to talk to people to make sure we are getting some positive letters written to the editor.
 - We need to nominate a public relations subcommittee: Sue H., Cathi W., Chris F., Maggie B., Andra L., Fritz S., all agreed to be on the committee.
 - Sue will take the initial flyer that she sent out as a draft and will incorporate some additional changes to the flyer to include the following: (Timeline is A.S.A.P.) Sue will work on it and send it out.
 - a. Emphasize the downsized plan
 - b. Change the circles on the front to YMCA, Public, Government or something similar.
 - c. Start calling the project the Cook County Family YMCA Project.
 - d. Make sure the Blue Cross / Blue Shield reimbursement is on the flyer.
 - e. We are moving a fitness center – not adding one.
- 2. Meet with the Cook County News Herald and discuss publicity.** Paul S. and anyone else who is interested. Paul will ask about being a guest columnist or what we can do to help get the information out. We do not have an advertising budget except what is paid for under the current community center budget.

3. **First Thursday Conversation on WTIP.** Paul S., Jeanne A., Chris F., Sue H., for June 7, 2012.
4. **Press releases from the Steering Committee:** Diane is willing to do these. Based upon the flyer and this meeting, Diane will do one and send it out to everyone for review before sending out.
5. **County web page:** Diane will send the information to the county I.T. department to have the web page kept up to date.
6. **Review Facebook page:** Paul S. and Sue P. will look at the Facebook page and update it with new information.

E. Review master program schedule of activities for moving forward.

1. Schedule informational meetings with school board and community

- These are part of the master plan that Wade has revised using May 15' 2012 as jumping off point. This schedule is based on 20 days per month (5 day weeks) If we followed this schedule, we would be able to start building mid-October. The design team has not been spoken to yet, so we don't know whether this schedule will fit for them either. This is simply a preview of 'what could happen.'
- Joint meeting should be scheduled with County Board, School Board, YMCA and city of Grand Marais. If the city of Grand Marais cannot participate, they could at least come and listen. Beth has agreed to doodle this joint meeting. First priority would be Tuesday, June 5 from 1 – 4 p.m. at the Cook County Courthouse, Commissioner's Room with second choice being Monday, June 4 – same time and place. Diane will schedule the room once we know. That evening we will follow this meeting up with a public meeting at the school in the gymnasium as before from 6 – 8 p.m.

- 2. Regular county board updates.** ORB will present monthly county board updates throughout the process.

F. Sub-committees

1. Finalize operational/ management agreement with the YMCA (sub-committee report)

This subcommittee consists of Chris, Tim S., Mike G., Beth. Chris has given to Tim S. a copy of an agreement between a YMCA and Community Center for review. There will be a need to discuss and define roles / partnerships between Community Education, Extension, by the County before signing the agreement. This information would not be in the building lease agreement but in the operations decisions about who does what.

- 2. Land exchange:** This subcommittee consists of Jeanne, Beth, and Tim S. We first have to determine where the line will meet and this might not happen until after the meeting with everyone on June 5. Beth will contact Tim S. about meeting before or after June 5 as the subcommittee sees fit.

G. Next steps:

1. Date / time for next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 6 from 8:00 a.m. until Noon at the Jane Mianowski Conference Center at Cook County I.S.D. # 166. Items that maybe should be on the agenda might include the following:

- Summary of the joint meeting between school, county, YMCA, and city if they attend on June 5
- Summary of the public input meeting the evening of June 5 from 6 – 8 p.m.
- Engineering review of west end of school
- Schematic design review

- Sub-committee reports: Land exchange; Operation / management agreement; Public relations
- Renaming of the board to the Cook County Family YMCA Board
- Next steps
- Next meeting date

There was a little time left on the agenda. Paul S. asked Kevin Peterson to please share his thoughts with us and to ask the committee whether anyone had any questions for Kevin.

Kevin stated they were very pleased to expand the YMCA mission into this region and provide assistance. We would like to make sure this moves forward in a concrete steps and look forward to hiring someone to make sure the process moves forward. Some notes from the discussion include the following:

1. There are 11 members that sit on the Duluth YMCA board. The board just finished a new construction phase and capital raising campaign.
2. Y-USA helped us to hire Chris as our CEO; they have helped us with fundraising as well. The Y-USA does not tell us what to do but help us when we need help.
3. The group shared that both support and confidence in the project has increased with the YMCA being on board.
4. YMCA memberships can be used across the country. Usually there is a small fee or in some cases no fee if you have a membership somewhere else. This 'perk' may actually increase the number of users from our part-time residents. The discussion also included making sure we had memberships that would be 6 month or 4 month, etc. so they would work for these part-time residents.
5. We should talk about the amount of funding that goes back into the community with scholarship funds, grants, naming rights, etc.
6. The timeline for hiring a director was given as at least 6 months before the facility opens.
7. This committee should be renamed to a YMCA branch board. This idea should be asked of the County Board and Tim S.
8. Anyone serving on a YMCA board needs to donate time, talent and treasure.
9. A fundraising committee could be established before the end of the summer.

The meeting was adjourned at Noon.