



15 in 5 PLAY Taskforce

FAR (Fields, Aquatic, Recreation) Subcommittee Minutes

**May 2 and 16, 2006
Ambroz Recreation Center
7:30-8:30 A.M.**

No minutes taken on May 2, 2006 because of facilitator's absence and no business being conducted.

May 16 Meeting called to order by Chairman Alan Bernard.

Recreation Center Seminar

Bernard, Hilby and Fitzgibbons will attend the Recreation Center Seminar in Denver June 9th through the 14th. Enough funds have been secured for three people to have their expenses covered for attending. The seminar will include tours of recreation centers located in the Denver area. The pre conference information lists these sites. It was decided to divide up these sites among the entire committee and have various members go to their websites and gather information on each site to be reported on at the next meeting as advice for the seminar attendees.

Meeting With City Council Members

Bernard reported that city council member Justin Shields had attended the overall PLAY Task Force meeting on May 4th and encouraged the Task Force to hold an informational meeting with the Cedar Rapids city council since the plans of the Task Force included the three public entities of the Ambroz Recreation Center, Bender Pool and the Witwer Senior Center. The purpose would be to inform the council of the Task Force work and to seek input from council members. It was thought that the best way to do this was at a city council Brown Bag informal session but other council members advised that the best procedure was to hold three informal sessions with three or four council members at a time. Bernard reported that the first of these sessions was held on Wednesday, May 10th. The Task Force was represented by Bernard, Gonder and Voss. Council members present were Shields, Brian Fagen, Pat Shey and Chuck Swore. Bernard reported that it was a good meeting and relayed certain suggestions that the council members made. Bernard said that another similar meeting with some more council

members would be held on Wednesday, May 17th with Mayor Kay Halloran, Tom Podzimek and Jerry McGrane expected to attend.

Discussion of a Site and Number of Acres Needed

A lengthy discussion was held on possible sites for the recreation complex and the number of acres needed for it. Dwight Dohlman of the City of Cedar Rapids Finances Dept. was asked to attend and answered a number of questions about available city land and its size. It was decided that a concept drawing was needed to determine the approximate size of a site. Dohlman volunteered to contact some architectural firms about this in hopes that they might be willing to do it at no cost to get their names in front of the Task Force. Shields volunteered to bring a city map to the next meeting that would show vacant city property sites.

Upcoming Meeting Topics

At the next meeting in addition to previously mentioned items the meeting will be used to lay out the various types of information that the Denver seminar representatives will be expected to gather. They will report on their trip at the second meeting in the month of June.

Members and Guests Present

Members: Alan Bernard, Ron Gonder, Tom Saxon, Jim Voss, Julie Sina, Phil Barnes, Judy Fitzgibbons, Kim Hilby, Tom DeBoom and Joy Long.

Guests: Justin Shields, City Council & Dwight Dohlman, City Finance Dept.

Next Subcommittee Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 6th from 7:30 to 8:30 A.M. at the Ambroz Center. The following meeting has been set for Tuesday, June 20th for the same time and site.

FAR Group Notes

From Jim Voss:

Here is the info that 3 ladies gave me on requirements for building a facility in CR.

Population within a 5 mile radius of 150,000 medium income of \$65,000

10/14 acres of land

50,000 to 130,000 square feet for the building(s) parking for 500 - 700 medium age in community 35 to 45 years community with 70% white collar

Plymouth is joint venture but we did not discuss what this means.

None of the ladies who share with me design, financing or budget and they will not send hard copies to me with pictures of the facility or written info.

You might want to send this out to the committee. Maybe someone from Julie's office can contact them.

From Phil Barnes:

I'm going to be out of town the next meeting. I reviewed the websites for the Apex Center and Wheat Ridge Recreation Center. I have a number of generic questions and a couple of specific ones after visiting the sites and associated rec. dept. sites:

1. What factors affected siting?
2. What is the resident catchment area (population, average family size, geographic area)?
3. How do they set and update the fee structure? Are resident discounts based upon local government funding or local taxes?
4. What level, if any, of commercial sponsorship was obtained during construction and operation?
5. How did they determine which facilities were to be included? What has changed since opening?
6. For the Wheat Ridge center - why a 25 yard pool vs. 50 meter pool?
7. For the Apex Center - how far is the 50 meter indoor facility?