

15 IN 5 RECREATION/COMMUNITY CENTER COMPLEX COMMITTEE
(PLANNING LIFELONG ACTIVITIES FOR YOU (PLAY) TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes, Dec. 28, 2006

Ambroz Recreation Center

7:30 – 8:30 A.M.

Attendance

Committee members: Myrt Bowers, co-chairperson, Jackie Harrington, co-secretary, Mary Day, Phil Wasta, Jim Voss, Judy Fitzgibbons, Brian Long, Jean Bjorseth, and Kim Hilby.

Advisors: Dwight Dohlman, City of Cedar Rapids facilities construction direction

Date for Interviews of the Feasibility Study Finalists

Dwight Dohlman confirmed that January 30, 2007 has been set as the interview date for the previously selected applicants. The city council chambers have been reserved as the site. The interview times will be from 1:00 to 5:00PM with a 25 minute presentation and 25 minutes of Q&A by each team. We will make coffee there and there are vending machines available. The interviewers should plan on arriving beginning around 12:30PM. All four firms were notified by letter and the schedule is as follows:

RDG	1:00
Williams	2:00
Sink, Combs, Dethlefs	3:00
Barker, Rinker, Seacat	4:00

Everyone on the Original Steering Committee will be in attendance and it is open to the public.

Dwight mentioned that he had listed the search committee's contact information so we may get calls from these firms asking for more information and should feel free to talk with them as this may be indicative of their interest in the project.

Chamber Meeting

Myrt Bowers and Alan Bernard were invited by the Chamber to speak to an architecture firm (name unknown) out of Minneapolis. The Chamber has asked this firm to review all studies that have been done in recent years on the Downtown District (First Avenue Bridge to Farmstead—not including Ellis Park). They will be meeting with all 15 in 5 groups to get perspective on these projects. An overview of our project was given, including the current desire for a campus-type of venue. Philip Wasta asked if the Downtown District was still in tact and it was confirmed that it was.

Articles of Incorporation

Jeanne Bjorseth submitted the draft for the Articles of Incorporation. This was based on a boilerplate from the States of Iowa, Minnesota (which she liked the best), and Council Organizations layouts but with the elements necessary to meet Iowa code incorporated. The articles will be filed when approved, than a tax ID will be applied for. We will have to form by-laws at a later date.

Philip W. moved to accept the Articles of Incorporation as written by Jeanne. Mary Day seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Stationery, Websites, and Marketing

Jeanne submitted a draft of a letterhead. It was discussed whether we should include the Linn County Board of Supervisors along with the other logos (City, 15 in 5, Chamber, Foundation.). Myrt, along with Alan and Jeanne will meet with the Board of Supervisors and determine if, indeed the county logo should be included. It was mentioned to center the city and county logos at the bottom of the page and make the 15/5, Foundation, and Chamber more dominant. We will postpone approving the letterhead until after the meeting with the County Supervisors.

The question was brought up as to whether we should build a website. It was thought that one could be built for around \$500. Kim Hilby may have a resource to ask about setting one up. This discussion was tabled for the time being.

Myrt is going to check with the Chamber to see if they will be funding fellows from Cornell who may be able to help with these efforts. Jeanne also knows of a student from UNI who is in marketing for non-profits who also may be able to help (who would probably be looking for a paid position) as well. We will have to determine our need for this.

Funding

Discussion ensued on the need to build the case for getting funding. It was brought up that Alan desires to be very much a part of building this case. It was mentioned that we need to maintain awareness of other initiatives that are going on in Eastern Iowa (e.g., Insight 20/10 in Dubuque) to get lessons learned from these groups. Mary Day will keep us informed of things going on in these areas as she is closely involved. Jeanne and Mary know people in Dubuque that we can call upon to get their insights. It was suggested that a core group go up to Dubuque and have breakfast with the Dubuque party and discuss lessons learned with them. Mary will discuss this with some of the Dubuque people when she travels to Washington D.C. with them. It was mentioned that Dubuque's application for Vision Iowa funds was very well done. Philip also suggested that the Dubuque citizenry were for the most part behind the Dubuque plans whereas CR is somewhat fractured in its support of these types of initiative. It was also brought up that in Dubuque, there is one person who is the visionary and who is able to collaborate well with all factions to get them on board with the plan. We will have to keep collaboration in the forefront of our planning.

Jim Voss met a person, Larry Starr, who mentioned that a possible source of funding may be the increase in dumping fees in 2008. He has supposedly talked to Lou Barron and Lee Clancy on this and the dumping fee of \$35 dollars will include an excess of \$15 (over the actual \$20 cost of dumping) that may be a source of revenue that we can tap for a pool. Dwight will talk to Carmen at the Solid Waste Commission to see if this is indeed the case (increase in dumping fee). Dwight was a bit skeptical in that he thought the excess would probably be used to cap the landfill but he will find out more about this.

Future Meetings

The next meetings will be Thursday, January 11 and January 25 at 7:30 A.M. at the Ambroz Center. We will discuss the evaluation criteria and scoring for the interviews and develop the funding case, define, and formalize it.

NOTE:

Please bring the copies of the feasibility proposals to the next meeting.