

15 IN 5 COMMUNITY CENTER COMPLEX COMMITTEE
PLANNING LIFELONG ACTIVITIES FOR YOU (PLAY) TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes of Feb. 28, 2008 (submitted by Jackie Harrington)
Ambroz Recreation Center 7:30-8:30 A.M.

Attendance 2/28

Committee members: Tom Saxen, co-chairperson, Jackie Harrington, co-secretary, Dwight Dohlman, Judy Fitzgibbons, Scott Schultz, Phil Wasta, Jeanne Brandes, Jeanne Bjorseth, Sandy Bruns, Brian Long, Jim Voss, Jeff Kraayanbrink, Mary Day, Julie Sina

CRAA Update

Petra Cote informed Jim Voss that James Broghammer finished the Business Plan. She also talked to Roxanne Dunn (who is partnering with Larry Starr for a Marion Aquatics plan) and was informed that the City of Marion will not let Linn Mar use Lowe Park unless they will pay to put up traffic lights at the corner. This could be approx \$800,000. Ms Dunn believes that the parties looking to building a Linn Mar pool will look at land further north on 10th. Her main goal is to get a pool at Linn Mar in time for her children to be able to use it. (no word on ages). Ms Dunn is not interested in discussing their plans with 15 in 5 because they believe PLAY's interest is only in downtown Cedar Rapids. Linn Mar currently has plans for a pool as part of a new high school to be built by 2011.

Community Activities: A water park could be potential revenue generation. People are currently heading out of town to use parks in Dubuque and Waterloo. It was noted that a recent letter to the editor asked why Cedar Rapids/Linn County would need one when Dubuque and Waterloo have them?

Jim will go to the Mercy Pool at PCI and take a look at it and what it offers.

Information

Tom Saxen was elected as co-chair of the PLAY in Linn County Committee.

Phil Wasta nominated Jackie Harrington to take his place as treasurer. A vote took place and passed.

Tom, Phil, Myrt, and Jeanne Brandes went to the meeting with the Press. The PLAY logo will be used any time there is a story.

Tom will go to Hawkeye Downs and take a look at the South Exhibition hall as one of the venues for the upcoming public open houses on Wed, March 12. Hawkeye Downs has agreed to waive the fee for the use of the hall.

Witwer center will be the site for the second forum on Thursday, March 13.

The third meeting, on Thurs, March 13 at 5:30 will be at the Prairie Oak Lodge at Squaw Creek, off of Highway 100 in Marion. So far the fee is not waived.

Mike Williams will be attending these sessions. We are inviting the public to come out and “inspire us.”

There will be a welcome table, sign in, talk about facilities, locations, and then a summary of how the feasibility study will take place.

Discussion ensued about framing the invitation as either an “Open House” or an “Info Gathering Session”. Tom will bring this up in the weekly telecon with Williams. PLAY committee members should try to attend whichever sessions they can to “meet and greet” and help set up and strike.

Question: Do we need nametags? Probably would be a good idea.

Myrt, Jim, and Tom will attend the Legislatures Breakfast on Saturday, March 1 to raise awareness of our initiative.

Tom will discuss the following at the Williams Conference call:

The Open House Agenda

Meetings between Mike Williams and the following individuals:

Jim Prosser

Scott Olson

Jim Voss

Bob Carlson

Tom: Mark Mathis gave valuable insight in dealing with the Linn County media

The meeting with the Gazette went well, meeting with Jeff Techlenburg, Linda Alexander, and Todd Dorman.

Jean Bjorseth: we should look at the East Side Arts Academy. They just became a 501c(3) and **should be included in our directory**. They are looking for a home and potential partnership.

Monica Vernon is going to look at the North Liberty Community Center.

Tom talked to Dan Baldwin at the Foundation about a Cornell College fellow for the summer. This position would be paid for by the Foundation. We would have to develop a job description.

Mike Williams will be coming to town week of April 21.

ACTION ITEMS

We need people to step up to be Team Leaders. This would be taking the lead with particular tabs on the contact list and keeping those people and their network informed. The Team leader would be responsible for developing the core talking points and getting a list of letter writers.

We have to be consistent in how we develop the Message.

Please let Tom know ASAP if you can be a Team leader.

Web Site

Scott Schultz found that it was easier to set the website up as freestanding rather than to integrate it directly with the Chamber website. We can put one out on “Go Daddy” for \$50. A motion was made to spend \$50 on Go Daddy and build a website that will be hot-linked to the Chamber’s. We will add links between the two. Tom will ask Williams if they have pictures we could share.

Other Information

Scott conversations he’s had, he believes that unless the city makes this a “high priority”, the money people in town (big businesses and city fathers) would not be funding this as a high priority with the other initiatives that are going on (i.e., the Riverfront and Downtown).

Scott also checked with the HR department and asked if they did exit interviews to determine what would attract new people and why people may leave town. They currently receive information about things like housing/cost of living and schools but do not currently talk about items like this project would addresses. They are considering adding this for the future.

Tom also noted that we do not have any quotes from the bigger businesses as to what is needed in town to attract and keep people that we can use for the editorials.

NEXT MEETING will be MARCH 6 (before the Public Open Houses). No meeting will be held March 13.

Finance

We will have some administrative costs for mailings.

We will be submitting a grant request to the GCRCF's presidential fund to help cover some administrative costs.

Jeanne Brandes will send Myrt the form to request funds from The Chamber.

Open House Invitations

Jeanne Brandes will try to send out invitations either today (Feb 28) or by Monday. She will also send out the file electronically. Tom will contact Williams to confirm format. Invitations will also be sent out to the local legislators.

Information

Future Meetings

Feb. 28th at 7:30 A.M. at Ambroz,