

15 IN 5 COMMUNITY CENTER COMPLEX COMMITTEE

PLANNING LIFELONG ACTIVITIES FOR YOU (PLAY) TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2008 – Ambroz Recreation Center 7:30-8:30 A.M.

Attendance

Tom Saxen & Myrt Bowers, co-chairpersons, Ron Gonder, secretary, Jeff Kraayenbrink, Judy Fitzgibbons, Nancy Nygren, and Scott Schultz

(The content below is a status report from co-chairperson Tom Saxen following the meeting of June 19, 2008, which includes all information that was discussed and came out of the meeting of June 19, 2008. It will therefore serve as the minutes for the meeting of June 19, 2008)

Our community has experienced an incredible disaster, but we are in awe of the many inspiring stories of compassion, courage and how many PLAY members have offered helping hands to our neighbors. When the President was here, the Secret Service was amazed on how fast the community was responding in such a positive way. Example - At any Wells Fargo branch in the world, you can contribute to the Czech Museum. Recovery will be a long, painful process, but it is critical that it is done in a thoughtful way for our future. In the interim, PLAY in Linn County (PLAY) will be adopting a lower profile while our civic and business leaders and our people respond in making sure that our recovery is on the right path.

Status:

- 1) The Witwer Senior Center was heavily damaged and Myrt and her team has responded by setting up their meal program at Washington High School.
- 2) Steering Committee member Marcia Hughes (Schools) has asked to be dropped.
- 3) Williams Team has offered their professional services to help the city in these times of need, particularly in housing inspections and dealing with FEMA. They are awaiting a response from the city.
- 4) Downtown power restoration (particularly steam) will take time.
- 5) The City will have some tough flood control decisions fast approaching.
- 6) Williams has agreed to suspend aspects of the feasibility study while these issues are being addressed. The next round of Open Houses will be postponed while issues of higher priority are addressed.
- 7) Williams has developed a design prototype of a community life center from the public input to date and will be able to offer it when needed for discussion. Grand Forks built a community center as a rallying point in their recovery. Out of adversity often comes opportunity. PLAY has been identified as a community priority once restoration begins.
- 8) Weekly Williams Conference Calls are suspended.
- 9) Downtown Farmers Markets on June 21 and July 5 are cancelled. PLAY will meet next at its regular fourth Thursday of July (24th) meeting at 7:30AM with the site to be determined. It will be a planning session, if the August 2 Downtown Farmers Market is held.
- 10) Many aspects of the Freedom Festival has been postponed till around Labor Day.
- 11) We will be using this time to get caught up on the PLAY website updates. We will continue to be working behind the scenes in promoting PLAY in the community.
- 12) Griffin LeDew will still be our Cornell Fellow beginning July 7 for seven weeks working out of the Chamber with Jeanne and me. Griffin will be building our outreach network, developing a PowerPoint presentation and conducting research/interviews with Grand Forks officials on their success story in rebuilding their city, particularly their community center, which had a luke warm public response prior to their flood.
- 13) Continue to wear your PLAY shirts at public events and talk about PLAY to people you meet - PLAY is NOT going away and will continue as a community priority, we are just giving our leaders time to exhale and begin the process of recovery.