

15 IN 5 COMMUNITY CENTER COMPLEX COMMITTEE
PLANNING LIFELONG ACTIVITIES FOR YOU (PLAY) TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2009 (submitted by Ron Gonder)
Cedar Rapids Recreation Dept. Parks Offices 7:30-9:00 A.M.

Attendance

Committee members: Tom Saxen & Myrt Bowers, co-chairpersons, Ron Gonder, secretary, Jackie Harrington, treasurer, Julie Sina, Jeff Kraayenbrink, Gail Loskill, Mary Day, Robin Robinson, Brian Long, Sherrill Valenta, Sandy Bruns, Jim Voss, Judy Fitzgibbons and Scott Schultz

Economic Development Authority

During the past month the city of Cedar Rapids has incorporated the PLAY project for a Community Center Complex as part of community development with regard to flood damage recovery. PLAY is now working with the CR City Manager's office and with the city Development Office headed up by Christine Butterfield. In addition, PLAY has begun working with David Roberts, who is on loan to the city from a company that consults on disaster recoveries. Through these entities PLAY has been advised to apply for a grant, in conjunction with the city, from the Federal Economic Development Authority (EDA) for funds to construct a Community Center Complex. The official application name for the facility is Multi-Generational Community Life Center, described as a facility with recreation, health, senior and early childhood components. Sina is heading up the PLAY application team in conjunction with Butterfield. Sina passed out a work plan on the application process, which is due for completion by March 20, 2009. Williams Architects will be assisting in the process with information they've gathered from the feasibility study. The application is called a pre-application, meaning that if the pre-application is approved by the EDA that PLAY will then be invited to make a formal application. This application is in competition with others from around the country. The application will be for 15 million dollars. No site for the Life Center has been determined and none is needed for the application but multiple possible sites may be listed. Roberts has experience with these applications from other cities with which he's worked and will oversee the process and will ensure that the Life Center fits with the coordinated mission of the city in the flood recovery process. Sina reported that it was Roberts' opinion that the Life Center would be granted a formal application and that it stands a strong chance of receiving an EDA grant.

Neighborhood Meetings

Loskill reported that neighborhood information gathering meetings on flood recovery will be held during January and into February. PLAY members were encouraged to attend and support the process as it relates to the inclusion of the Multi-Generational Community Life Center in the flood recovery plans. Loskill stated that this was a way of making the neighborhoods aware of the possibilities of such a facility. Loskill suggested that it was best to wait on any conceptual for the facility for two reasons; the neighborhood sessions would provide needed input on that and a need to wait to see what the grant being requesting will support.

Williams Architects

Saxen passed out notes from Dave Roberts on a phone conference held with Williams Architects officials discussing Williams' future role. Saxen also passed out notes from Robinson in the form of a flow chart that outlined ways to determine deliverables, obligations and payments for the remainder of the existing Williams contract with the city through PLAY. There is also a need to find out where subcontractor Greenplay Consultants fits into the future picture. Saxen reported that these things will be worked out among the city, PLAY and Williams in the next few weeks.

Community Service Center

Saxen reported on attending further meetings about a Community Service Center, which could serve as a co-location center for various governmental, school and non profit organizations, to keep them informed about PLAY and its plans.

Early Learning Institute

Robinson reported further on meetings involving early childhood groups in partnering for space in the PLAY Community Center Complex. Seven entities have now committed to a desire to be included in the plan.

Youth Baseball

Saxen reported that through the CR Kernels the national minor league baseball organization has committed to funding the implementation of a new youth baseball field in CR this coming spring as a gesture to help CR in its flood recovery. Kraayenbrink will be involved in meetings to select a site for the field, which needs to be centrally located so that neighborhood youngsters can easily access it.

Marion Recreational Facility

Voss reported on information he's received from Scott Weiss who's considering a recreational facility in Marion that would include a pool and aquatics center among other things. Discussions are continuing between Weiss and the Linn Mar schools on participation in the project. No location has yet been designated.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 12th at 7:30 A.M. at the CR Parks offices on 42nd St.