

PLAY

8/20/09 Minutes

Present: Saxen, Wasta, Schultz, Long, Fitzgibbons, Harrington

The City held a second round of Open Houses, which most of those present attended. It was noted that 591 attended on 8/17 and 8/18, which was up from 201 at the June Open House (partially due to weather). Most of the comments on Option 2, the Centralized facility were favorable. A recommendation from these two open houses (June and August) will be forthcoming in approximately 6 weeks (early October).

Tom believes the City is trying to formulate a long-term vision for Parks and Rec.

PLAY hired a grant writer, Tracy Tritle, and submitted an I-JOBS grant application. PLAY went through several iterations of City prioritizations, ranging from 2nd to 6th -10th, then 6th and finally 5th. However, it was noted that since this project was not shovel-ready, it was going to be an uphill battle. There was an initial I-JOBS allotment of \$30M for the City and non-profits. Per the City, PLAY was allocated \$4M for planning, architectural and engineering. Before PLAY received its final City priority, Jeff Kraayinbrink presented Williams Architect's (via GreenPlay) PLAY pro forma financial projections to a small group of City Officials, including Jim Prosser and Councilman Kris Guilick. Originally, Williams estimated the City PLAY facility subsidy to approximate \$1M / year. But after taking out water and sewer that other City facilities do not pay, this subsidy dropped to about \$300K per year, which is close to the City's current Recreation subsidy. There will be I-JOBS Review/Board meetings on Aug 26 and Aug 31, respectively, which Tom will attend. Jackie will attend the Aug 31 meeting, if required. (Since this PLAY meeting, the PLAY grant request has been rejected for not meeting the I-JOBS selection criteria so there was no need to attend the Aug 31 meeting.)

Tom met with Aegon's CEO Pat Baird and gave an "investor" update to him on the status of PLAY. Aegon Transamerica's Foundation was the only large corporate contributor to the original PLAY feasibility study. Baird is also on the I-JOBS review committee and will not vote on any CR projects to avoid any conflict of interest. The lack of PLAY being shovel-ready, a City-County collaboration and identified funding sources makes it difficult to meet the I-JOBS criteria.

Scott Schultz also arranged a meeting with the Aegon Transamerica Foundation (including Dave Blankenship, Marie Swope, and Larry Norman), where Tom presented an "investor" update. It is important that we gain access to other corporate/business leaders to get buy-in for the project. These leaders would include Clay Jones (Rockwell Collins), Jack Evans (Hall-Perrine Foundation), Tom Aller (MidAmerican Energy), et al.

PLAY members also reiterated that we need a daily Project Leader, who has access to these community leaders, a communications link, and grant writer capabilities for PLAY to move forward. Volunteers can only take PLAY so far.

Williams Architects (WA) submitted a five-year financial pro-forma projection. There is a legitimate concern as to the integrity of their revenue streams. It is imperative that this is based on reality and not wishes. As the City's contract manager, Jeff is pursuing answers to these questions from WA. Earlier, PLAY also asked Jeff to get some other RFPs from other architects, but WA objected to this, believing there is an understanding between WA and the City that if the project goes forward, they have the job. This is a contract issue between WA and the City.

The Farmers Market feedback has been primarily positive. There has been some pushback on not having a local architect, but the idea for the facility remains strong.

There was a meeting arranged with Bob Carlson (YMCA) and Jim Prosser that was to include Marion city leaders and the County Supervisors. Marion and the County representatives did not get invited. Julie Sina attended.

Next meeting is September 10, 7:30 AM, at 42nd Street Recreation Dept Operations office.

jdh