

## **Community Building Development Team**

**Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2013**

**Location: Solon Center Wesleyan Church**

Attendees:

Tom Mabie    Claudia Mabie    Keith Hall    Bob Truesdale    Betty Truesdale    Tom Holloway    Becky Powell  
Kurt Mabie    Mark Laws    Sue Wolfe

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 by Kurt Mabie.

Discussion on Fire Barn.

- Tom Mabie suggested we try to get the fire barn moved as a first step in preparing the site. He got a quote from Gust Construction of \$130,000 to move it and clean-up the existing site. It would be functional at the new location. It would be about a 2-week project to move it and clean-up the site. It was unclear as to the zoning and building requirements for relocating it.
- Bob Truesdale suggested we build a new fire barn. He had spoken to Kirk Scharphorn, City Zoning Administrator. He also got a quote from an Amish builder for construction on a completed exterior of the building. Bob presented a possible design based on a fire barn from another unit of government. Bob will try to have an estimated total cost to include heating, plumbing, electrical, interior finishing, etc. for our next meeting. Bob shows the average sq. ft. cost of the Taylor Fire Barn as being \$71/sq. foot.
- There was also discussion about donating it with all cost for moving or disassembling it being handled by the receiving party.
- Keith Hall and Sue Wolfe will talk with architects to ask about possible costs in getting a design for a fire barn.
- It would be very important for the Fire Department to be leaders in the design of a new fire barn. They would have to make the financial discussions on needs versus wants for the department.
- Goal of informational gathering on fire barn would be to present two possible options to the City Council for their consideration. We hope to present the estimated cost of moving the barn versus the cost of a new building. This committee wants to assist the Fire Department in any way we can even though we can not take on the responsibility of raising the necessary funds for a fire barn.

Discussion on Community Center.

- The list of features and functions of a new community center from last month's meeting were reviewed
- Tom Holloway and Sue Wolfe, En-Gedi Board Members, will bring a list of ideas and possible designs to the next meeting.
- Everyone should bring a list of other similar facilities in the area this committee may want to visit.
- Kurt Mabie agreed to serve as this committee's spokesperson. We should all direct specific questions to Kurt so we are careful not to say things that may not be representative of our entire committee. We are still in the informational gathering phase with no firm decisions having been made at this point. We want to continue gathering input from as many organization, club, and people as possible over the next few weeks.

Next Steps

- Kurt Mabie will meet with City Council and will try to attend monthly meetings to keep the line of communication open. He will ask them for suggestions and gather their thoughts. He will report back at our next meeting.
- All Committee Members should continue to ask people what they would envision in a community center and how it could best serve our community
- Keith Hall read the City of Cedar Spring's Vision Statement and Master Plant. A community center would fit perfectly within the parameters and objective of the City's vision and goals. Keith will get copies of that Vision Statement and Master Plan for our next meeting.
- Kurt Mabie has met with Earla and Christine from the Library Board. Kurt will continue to attend the library board meetings as best he can and keep the lines of communication open. Kurt expressed his

thoughts that a combined community center and library could still happen. Kurt will ask for the library board's vision and feedback from their building committee.

- We want to make sure all interested people and organizations receive these minutes. Kurt expressed his desire that this committee's actions, goals, and motives always be clear, transparent, and available to the public.
- Ownership of a community center and library was discussed. It may be necessary to get a legal opinion. Kurt will look into that with City Manager, Thad Taylor and report back at our next meeting.
- Additional membership was discussed. Sue Wolfe will ask Sonja Cronkright to please consider joining this group. She was very instrumental in the downtown development a few years ago. All committee members should be thinking about other possible members that would be helpful in this process.
- Claudia Mabie asked about writing down some specific verbiage on what this committee's goals are and how we best explain it. It is very important that all members of this committee remain positive, open, and willing to explore all possibilities. If members are asked a specific question from the community, they should be comfortable responding with "We aren't sure yet. We are still gathering information. Let me find out though and I will get back with you."

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 20, 2013, 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Solon Wesleyan Church. Please contact Carolee Cole by e-mail if you can not make it.

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

1. Fire Barn Costs
2. City of Cedar Springs Feedback
3. Community Building Designs
4. Existing Community Building/Library Facilities
5. Community Building Development Team Goals and Objectives
6. Library Board Feedback
7. Membership Additions
8. What's the next step?

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Wolfe, Acting Secretary in Carolee Cole's Absence