

Community Building Development Team
Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Location: Solon Center Wesleyan Church

Attendees:

Donna Clark	Carolee Cole	Sonia Cronkright	Amanda Gerhardt	Tom Holloway
Mark Laws	Kurt Mabie	Tom Mabie	Becky Powell	Ron Silverman
Bob Truesdale	Betty Truesdale	Sue Wolfe		

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 by Kurt Mabie.

Ron Silverman presented information on a new school he is starting for troubled kids.

- It will be a private, Christian, non-profit school.
- It will serve 30 students and will utilize both classroom and horse/farm activities and responsibilities.
- The school is looking for a place to conduct classroom learning.

Fire Barn

- Mayor Truesdale has made a few connections. There are no specifics yet.
- Lots of different prices and requirements have been suggested by various persons.

Feedback from the City of Cedar Springs and other community organizations

- Kurt attended City Council and expressed interest in open communication with them.
- Kurt has not been able to meet with Earla – She is particularly busy at this time.
- Kurt met with Amanda Gerhardt, Parks and Rec Director, regarding the needs assessment that was done by Parks and Rec several years ago.
- Kurt met with Ron McDermed who believes a community building would benefit the school district.

Community Building Designs/Possible Uses

- Kurt visited Grand Haven Public Library. They serve the public school with computer learning.
- Sue presented two plans that were developed 12 – 13 years ago to build a building for Parks and Rec. The design was based on the community survey and needs assessment that was done by Parks and Rec at that time.
 - Question concerning how good the response to the survey and needs assessment was and how many people were surveyed.
 - It was mailed to the larger Cedar Springs community, including Solon Township, Nelson Township, Algoma Township, part of Courtland Township, City of Cedar Springs and the Cedar Springs School District.
- Recommendation to visit the Three-Mile Project. There are very interesting concepts and opportunities incorporated into its design.
- Question regarding how costs and responsibilities for various parts of the building are broken out and paid and by whom. No clear answers at this point.
- There is discussion about shutting down Hilltop. Kurt will follow-up on this possibility. It is possible a community building could be used for Professional Development.

Creative concept possibility presented by Sonia Cronkright.

- Use a Train Station concept
 - Build a Train Station as the hub.
 - There are lots of luxury train cars for sale
 - Creates an experience
 - Could include a fine dining luxury car with digital media experience replicating other places or times and corresponding cuisine. (Could be operated by GRCC students.)

- There could be train cars for shopping
- Could be a rental facility for cross country skis, roller blades, bikes, etc.
- Could be brought to fruition in phases
- A place to experience culture
- A way to capitalize on our own history
- The focus is on how we package the new community building. Will it be just a functional building or a building that provides an experience and a draw to the community far outside Cedar Springs?

Information communication – The Sail Place is for sale.

Discussion regarding whether we need 501c3 status or should use another organizations status to raise money.

- This group will not continue after the building is built, so the status would be short-term.
- It takes a lot of time and some money to get approval.
- Question regarding whether larger donors would have less confidence in giving money to an alternate organization.

Discussion regarding whether it is time to develop committees or teams to begin building design discussions.

- Do we have enough of the end users at the table yet to begin that process?
- Sonia knows some students from Kendall College who might be able to help with aesthetic design.
- Sonia Cronkright and Tom Holloway expressed interest in serving on the aesthetic Design team.
- Suggestion that we take our ideas to the groups in the community who will be end users so we can get the right people involved.

Community Building Development Team Vision

- The Vision statement was read aloud and accepted by a vote of those present.

The Community Building Development Committee exists to construct a building and space where the many clubs, governmental entities, educational organizations, community organizations, and residents of the greater Cedar Springs community can gather for cultural, educational, recreational, commercial and family/community events. Because this enhances the mission and goals of these many entities, (see below) we hope to collaborate with them to design, raise the funds and construct this space. It is our goal, as reflected in the statements below, that the space will retain our small-town character, incorporate natural features, link neighborhoods, enhance characteristics that already define our community and make it easy for families, youth, senior citizens, organizations, and all community members to gather, celebrate, and serve each other.

From the City of Cedar Springs Vision Statement: “Cedar Springs will build upon its small town character by upgrading and reinforcing the downtown as a quaint center for community gatherings, recreation, . . . Natural features and trails will link neighborhoods with the downtown, schools, and public facilities.”

From the Parks and Recreation Vision Statement: “To coordinate/provide recreational facilities and activities for all ages in the Cedar Springs area community.”

From the Chamber of Commerce Vision Statement: “The Cedar Springs Chamber of Commerce exists to create and maintain opportunities for communication and organize activities and events which enhance community, business, and the quality of life for Cedar Springs area businesses, members and residents.”

From the En Gedi Vision Statement: “Working together with organizations already in place to help students make positive life choices. Believing that our community will be “Better Together”.

From Cedar Springs Public Schools District Goals: "Cedar Springs Public Schools will support and encourage every community member to invest in our children's future and build shared ownership and participation in our school district by: . . . Supporting programs and structures that encourage increased collaboration with business, government, community, and cultural organizations."

From Cedar Springs Public Library's Mission Statement: "The Mission of the CSPL is to provide quality materials and services which fulfill the educational, informational, cultural and recreational needs of our diverse community in an atmosphere that is welcoming and promotes lifelong learning."

From Cedar Springs Public Library Vision Statement: "The CSPL is the community's family room where reading and lifelong learning are encouraged and celebrated."

Other vision statements can be added.

Next Steps:

- Continue to invite community members/organizations to come to our meetings.
- Continue to share the vision.
- Consider which groups to start with and what content will be shared.
- Sonia will invite Jerry Homminga to participate.
- Continue to pray.
- Amanda Gerhardt will review the past needs assessment to see how relevant it might still be
- Make a decision about the need for this group to gain 501c3 status or use the City of Cedar Springs
- Make a proposal to the City of Cedar Springs regarding the present fire barn
- Clearly identify our partners in our mission to create a Community Center and invite them to join our group
- Present a request within the next 30 days to the Parks and Recreation Board to consider participation in creating a Community Center.

Additional thoughts and comments.

- Would it be a good thing to hold a public meeting and share what is being considered in order to control rumors?
- Should we just allow the group to continue to grow organically, through word of mouth?
- Cedar Springs has not become who we are yet.

Elected officers: Kurt Mabie was elected President of the Team. Tom Mabie will serve as Vice-President and Sonia Cronkright will consider serving as Vice President if/when Tom's out-of-town commitments make it difficult for him. Carolee Cole was elected Secretary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Solon Wesleyan Church.
Please contact Carolee Cole at caroleecole@gmail.com if you cannot make it.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary, Carolee Cole