



## Facilities Review Committee

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Members of the Facilities Review Committee met this day in regular session at City Hall in the Community Room, Brownsville, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Blaine Cheney, Debie Wyne, Lynda Chambers, Rick Dominguez, Brandie Simon, Katie Cheney, Elizabeth Coleman, Karl Frink & Scott McDowell.

**Absent:** Carla Gerber.

**Public:** No one was present.

**Presiding:** Blaine Cheney.

Mr. Cheney reconvened the meeting at 7:06 p.m. McDowell gave a recap of the events of the last meeting to bring everyone up to speed. McDowell said that after reading through minutes it seemed there were two recommendations this Committee would consider sending Council. The first recommendation would be for Council to consider a broader, regional discussion about recreational facilities. How would partners such as the Central Linn School District, the City of Halsey and others feel about working together to create new recreational space. The second recommendation would be for Council to consider placing money in the budget for structural engineer to review the Pavilion and possibly the Rec Center. McDowell gave a rundown of funding options the Committee discussed to date. Lynda Chambers reviewed possible locations for the Pavilion. Discussion ensued around prevailing wage rates, the use of volunteer help and the legalities of bidding public project.

Debie Wyne asked for members to give their thoughts on the direction the Committee was heading as described by McDowell. Rick Dominguez thought it would be a very good idea to review the Pavilion to see if it could simply be repaired. Dominguez also shared insight into the Central Linn Rec Center being utilized as a large meeting hall. He indicated that the American Legion likes to have regional meetings in Brownsville. If there would be no Rec Center, then that opportunity, and others like it, would no longer be possible.

Lynda Chambers talked about the partnership aspects and the importance of having everyone at the table. Chambers was concerned about the sheer size of the discussion. Keeping conversations on point could prove to be difficult. Chambers also mentioned the emotional element of these buildings in the broader community. How will the discussion address emotional elements?

Blaine Cheney asked McDowell how the City would propose approaching the other groups. McDowell indicated that a well-crafted, hand-delivered letter would more than likely be the approach. The ask would be if the other parties would be interested in partnering around recreational opportunities for the broader community. The letter would also contain a few suggestions on how to proceed including a timeline for at least in initial discussions take place. The Central Linn School District and the City of Halsey would be the principles in the discussion along with Pioneer Christian School. McDowell thought Council would want to gauge interest prior to putting a lot of effort in a broader discussion.

Blaine Cheney talked about fixed costs and struggles the City of Corvallis has had relating those costs to the general public regarding the public swimming pool. The bottom line is there will be



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operational costs associated with any improvements and identifying reasonable ways to address these costs will be vital to the larger conversation. Some discussion ensued regarding meeting the associated costs of operation and user fees. The reason why certain assets are held by the public are because they do not generate enough revenue to cover costs. Another difficult aspect is discussing public wants versus what can be afforded.

Lynda Chambers thinks there will be significant emotional attachment to the Rec Center. It is something that will have to be strongly considered moving forward. A regional approach will be very difficult based on the history between all the identified partners and, then, their individual histories with taxpayers. How do we maximize resources to serve a broad group of people in our region? Future discussions will be difficult. Perhaps they will prove to be insurmountable in terms of political opinion and ability to execute a well-thought-out plan, however, the avenue must be reviewed for the sake of taxpayer efficiency and community need.

Discussion ensued about the Pavilion. The general consensus was that the Pavilion would be separate from the regional discussion about recreational opportunities and how that would impact the existing Rec Center facility. Discussion ensued around how intergovernmental agreements could be used to dedicate space, ensure proper scheduling, deal with general administrative issues and pay for operational maintenance.

Several other conversation strings were explored around some of the challenges a larger group discussion will inevitably bring. The conclusion was for McDowell to write up a recommendation based on the conversations of the Committee. McDowell will send that draft recommendation for Committee members review. Members volunteered to be present at the November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Council meeting to present a recommendation. Members were interested in being reconvened if Council should decide they need a Committee to review details or consider other courses of action.

McDowell thanked all the members on behalf of Council and the City for their time and effort. He said this Committee was a fantastic experience that included great conversations, meaningful discussion points, great group interaction and ice cream!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "SM", positioned above a horizontal line.

S. Scott McDowell  
City Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Blaine Cheney", positioned above a horizontal line.

Blaine Cheney  
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