

YMCA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 2, 2016

Present: Brian Olsen, Chairman; Eric Heller, Vice Chairman; Warren Hassinger, Secretary; Rosemary Vieux, Treasurer; Pat Rios, City of Rockport Mayor Pro Tem.

Guests: Pat DeVelco, Neli Spurrell, Linda Olivant, Jeanette Larson, George Riekers, Natalie Sprot, Bonnie Bullis, Patsy Taylor, Doug & Patty Vrazel, Adelaide Marlatt

Absent: Tracy Shelton

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Wednesday December 7, 2016, at 5:30 PM

Council Chambers at Rockport City Hall, 622 E. Market Street, Rockport, Texas.

1. Call meeting to order.

The meeting of the YMCA Development Committee was held in the Council Chambers at the Rockport City Hall, 622 E. Market Street, Rockport, Texas, on November 2, 2016. Chairman Brian Olsen called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM, after announcing the presence of a quorum.

2. Citizens to be heard.

There were no citizens requesting to make public comment.

3. Deliberate and act on approval of Committee meeting minutes of September 7, 2016.

Brian Olsen addressed the September 7, 2016, minutes. Eric Heller made the motion to accept the minutes and Rosemary Vieux seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

4. Hear and deliberate on financial report.

Brian Olsen reported to the committee on the financial report. He confirmed that the bank account balance had no changes and is \$2,500.00.

5. Hear and deliberate on contacts with potential donors.

Committee members had no updates to report.

6. Deliberate and act on a proposal for website design & marketing, a Facebook account, and a GoFundMe account.

Fernando Lopez from Magnum Websites updated the committee, advising the website, Facebook and GoFundMe accounts have been created and can be made available to the public at any time. After discussion, Brian Olsen suggested that the Facebook and GoFundMe accounts remain inactive. Also, Brian Olsen will reach out to City Manager Kevin Carruth to discuss the option of placing the Rockport YMCA on the City of Rockport website.

Further website design, Facebook and GoFundMe account updates and possible changes to current policy will be considered at the December 7, 2016, meeting.

No additional action was taken on website design and marketing.

7. Deliberate on questions from Friends of the Pool and interested public concerning possible pool use policies.

Numerous residents from Rockport, Fulton and Aransas County addressed the committee members, including:

Rockport resident Pat DeVelco had questions concerning the overall plans for the YMCA, including location, pool and aquatics activities, funding, and other proposed activities. Brian Olsen and Eric Heller provided an in-depth review of the proposed Rockport YMCA.

Rockport resident and arborist Neli Spurrell reported a high success rate for transplanting existing live oak trees rather than removing the existing trees entirely. A Rockport Country Club resident had previously reported no successes with their attempts to transplant existing live oak trees.

Fulton resident Linda Olivant had questions concerning proposed pool parking, possible removal of existing live oak trees, and any plans to fund YMCA memberships for disadvantaged youth. She also reported the majority of "Winter Texans" are primarily interested in water activities only. Brian Olsen addressed her comments and questions.

Rockport resident Jeanette Larson expressed concern for residents who were interested in water activities only. She also stated that the deed (Special Warranty Deed) for the pool and the proposed YMCA property (previously donated by Rockport resident Cecile ("Ceil") Frost, Director of Rockport-Fulton Youth Foundation, Inc.) stated the property was for community use and that a paid YMCA membership did not meet the intended criteria. Ms. Larson provided an update on her previous reports of trees being cut at the proposed YMCA building site and confirmed in fact the trees were actually being aesthetically trimmed. Brian Olsen responded that the committee members agreed that other options (in lieu of a paid YMCA membership) for pool activities would be considered; also that the donated property deed restrictions would be investigated.

Rockport resident George Riekers, representing South Rockport Neighbors, voiced concerns that some ethnic communities would not allow their children to attend a YMCA facility based on its Christian values. He also had concerns about removing existing oak trees. Brian Olsen confirmed the City of Rockport has an active Tree and Landscape Committee that is tasked with overseeing removal of trees in Rockport.

Rockport resident Natalie Sprot voiced concerns over removing trees from the proposed building site, also supporting moving some of the specimen trees if possible. She also supports children's after school programs.

Rockport resident Bonnie Bullis, a member of Friends of the Pool, encouraged the Committee to reach out to the community-at-large and especially the regular pool users to gauge their interest in a YMCA, specifically as to whether the community will support a YMCA with a paid membership. She questioned whether there were sufficient area residents prepared to join a local YMCA. Ms. Bullis reminded the committee of the relative high number of Aransas County school students who qualify for free breakfasts and lunches.

Rockport resident Patsy Taylor inquired as to the tax implications of a local YMCA, specifically asking if local residents would be paying for the YMCA facility through increased taxes. Rockport Mayor Pro Tem Pat Rios addressed her questions and provided an overview of previously approved bonds, in-kind donations totaling an estimated \$400,000, and the committee's ongoing efforts to secure additional funding through donations and grants.

Doug and Patty Vrazel are recently new Rockport Country Club residents, previously from Victoria, Texas. Mr. Vrazel was a board of directors member of the Victoria YMCA, and provided valuable insight as to the YMCA management style and its focus on Victoria and its surrounding community. He also reminded the committee that the primary goal of the YMCA was to build strong communities, strong minds, also to provide budget-minded and affordable activities to the community. Mr. Vrazel said much of the YMCA expertise is in child care and aquatics.

Rockport resident Adelaide Marlatt spoke to correct a rumor that Ceil Frost had lost money to the YMCA years ago. Ms. Marlatt stated that she had personally spoken with Ms. Frost and while Ms. Frost was upset about the YMCA closing, she did not lose money.

8. Deliberate on the environmental impact of the proposed YMCA facility.

This item had been previously discussed at length in item 7 above.

9. Deliberate on the possibility of conducting a new community survey.

Brian Olsen suggested that the committee should consider reaching out to the community to determine the interest in a YMCA.

Rockport Mayor Pro Tem Pat Rios advised that more than one survey had been provided to Rockport residents and indicated that there had been considerable community support.

Rockport resident Jeanette Larson questioned whether the previous surveys had included a willingness to support a dues-funded facility. She also suggested mass mailing surveys. Brian Olsen reported that mass mailings were expensive and resulted in very poor responses.

10. Hear and deliberate on items for inclusion on next agenda.

Agenda items include: financial report update, committee member updates from potential donors and donor contacts, deliberate and act on the status of the YMCA website, Facebook account, and GoFundMe account.

Committee member Rosemary Vieux provided items to be considered, based on a recent trip to Parker, Colorado, a city of approximately 50,000 residents. Parker, Colorado, has a very active Community Center. Items for consideration include:

- Recreation center as well as a gym for children and adults
- Day care
- Nutrition classes
- Senior citizen-oriented activities
- Stage for plays
- Patio to facilitate parties, picnics and local bands

- Local school matinees (see www.ParkerArts.org/school)
- Camps and year-round classes for adults and youth: art, music, robotics, theatre, dance, culinary
- Adult lecture series with topics that impact citizens of the city and county
- Event space available to be rented for weddings and meetings

Ms. Vieux reports that Parker, Colorado Community Center (Parker Arts) has been her inspiration, and is centrally located in old downtown Parker, Colorado, also is a vibrant area even though there are several other shopping malls within close proximity.

Also, see www.parkerarts.org; also see emariner@parkeonline.org.

The next meeting is to be held in on December 7, 2016, in the Council Chambers located at Rockport City Hall, 622 E. Market Street, Rockport, Texas.

11. Adjournment.

Eric Heller made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Rosemary Vieux seconded the motion, and the vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Approved by:



Eric Heller, Chairman