

Hi everyone,

Here are the notes from our meeting today:

August 21, 2019

Present: Gretchen Otness, Beth Fischer, Matt Dawson, Vicki Davis, Justin Bos, Gary Laughlin, Rob Baumgarn

Absent: Mike Fagerlie, Mike Negen

Updates – Invest In Willmar meets every other week. Marcus Construction (Jim Bach and Andrew ? were present) and Terwisscha Construction (Bruce Peterson and Kelly Terwisscha were present) were both interviewed as potential construction management for the projects. Whoever is chosen will coordinate the subcontractors (which may or may not be local companies) and they would assume all risk and be responsible for staying in budget.

The Stormwater and Robbins Island projects are mostly city and will likely be handled by Bolton and Menk.

There will be an architect chosen per project – it was discussed that the architect chosen for the Rec/Event Center and the Rec Fields will need to work closely together to assure similar design so there is a consistent look across the two facilities. Should also work with Curling club to be consistent with their new space as well. The Rec fields will have a dome that is down 6 months out of the year (May-Oct) and will need to be stored, likely in a new pole barn nearby. The first project to be completed will likely be the Girls softball fields and youth baseball fields of the Rec Fields project. Plans are already made and will consist of a pinwheel layout with 4 fields (to hold 8 teams playing at once) and a concession area in the middle. Plans are for this to be between the two entrances to the Civic Center.

Lots of discussion occurred regarding where all of these facilities should be placed. Likely most all will be on the North side, keep as much on that side as possible. The city and the high school are currently working out the agreement/purchase of the land for the 2 turf fields in the bubble. But there was also discussion about possibly putting the Rec/Event Center closer to the new curling rink on the west side so they can be used in conjunction with each other when the Curling rink ice is off during the dry season.

Additional/New Parking will be to the East of the Civic Center

Our priority list:

- Keep the “event center” piece of this project very versatile, think less about the concerts/shows that will possibly, but less often, be happening in the space and think more on the year-round community events, weddings, trade shows, galas, conventions, conferences, graduations/ceremonies, etc. that will utilize/rent the space much more often than music or entertainment will.

- Seating needs to include as many backed seats as possible.

- Indoor tennis/pickleball floors with lines – ability to be open 7am-10pm as we anticipate they will be highly used and a large volume of traffic on them
- Need to have long term plans to be able to connect event center with the domed turf field center, if it's not doable to connect them when they are originally built
- If possible, keep the entrances to both the Rec/Event Center and the Rec Fields the same entrance so there is only that entrance and then the main Civic Center entrance, instead of adding 2 new ones for a total of 3
- Ideally seat 1,500 for “event center” events – we want to be larger than the WEAC (600), High school (500-600), Cardinal arena new seating (1200)

Budget: 10 million

The exterior and structure of the building will likely take about 5 million and will be roughly 20,000-25,000 square feet

The inside will take about 3 million of the budget and consist of the pickleball/tennis floors, commercial kitchen, kids play area/indoor playground, extended/added locker rooms (hopefully connected to current locker rooms) with viewing area and meeting space above.

The outdoor rink will take 2 million of the budget

Other communities to look at – if you are in/around these or any other communities with similar facilities, please make notes and take pictures to share with the committee at the next meeting.

Hutchinson

Montevideo – 2 tiered

Brookings

Marshall

St. John's

Grand Rapids – outdoor covered skating rink example

Next meeting – Wednesday, September 18th, 4-5pm at the Civic Center

God Bless,

Gretchen Otness