FUTURE OF MINERVA PARK FACILITIES – RESULTS OF APRIL MEETINGS
4/23/2018

On two separate dates, residents convened to discuss facility needs. About 50 residents in total participated. We had a wonderful time and I hope the next workshop will be at least as well attended! If you are someone who wanted to come but found the day/time were not possible, please let me know for future scheduling.

The summarized results of our meetings are included below. Please note that an adjustment was made to questions 3 and 4 after the first meeting – to add clarity. Please remember – residents were asked for their thoughts – not as experts but as tax payers and users of public services.

Next Steps: Discuss with Council and then Kickoff Meeting for Facility Sub-Committee.

Question 1
Do all Village services need to be in the same building or same location (campus)?
Consider: EMS, Police, Administration, Community Room, Mayors’ Court, Maintenance

Answers:
- EMS and Police should be together – they could share a campus but not required. If they are on the same campus, there needs to be a physical separation from other services.
- Other thoughts:
  - Multipurpose Administrative Room – for council meetings and mayor’s court and Village government activities.
  - Community room just for community use
  - Have maintenance equipment be located by the Pool

Question 2
Community Building – the Land – the Location. What should the land be used for? What should happen to the current community building?

Answers:
- Current Location of the Community Building – is the heart of the Village. Needs to shine
- No one in either meeting suggested re-purposing the land
- Would like to see a historic looking building
- Would like to see if all services would fit on this land
- Teams split on desire to fix or tear down current building

Question 3 (Three Part)
What do you think about having a community gathering place/meeting room(s)? On a scale of 1-5 with 1 being highest – how important is it to have one? If it is important – what features would be critically important to you?

Answers:
A. Pros and cons of having a community building:
   Pros:
   - Gives the community a dedicated space to gather
   - Would like to become a “real” community again
   - Could rent out space (revenue) for example – weddings
   Cons:
   - Have to have someone to manage it / maintain it
Answers to Question 3 – Continued:

B. How important is a community building on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being highest?
   - 5 out of 6 six teams ranked community building a number 1 importance

C. Features for Community Building: (wish list)
   - ADA – more than the minimum requirements
   - Kitchen
   - Storage
   - Bike rack
   - Deck
   - Patio
   - Exercise Area
   - Room for a minimum of 150 people
   - Alcohol license
   - Rocking chairs

Question 4 (Three Part)

A: Considering all the services the Village provides, what priority would you place on each service for expanding/improving space?

Answers:
   - The service considered highest priority – the teams split – half naming Police and half naming the a combined Community building and Administrative offices
   - Second highest: Community Building
   - Third highest: Administration
   - Fourth highest: EMS
   - All – preference would be for a comprehensive plan

Answers:

B: What would be the timeframe you would like to see for identifying the solution, agreeing to the solution and starting work on the solution in terms of months or years?
   - Year 1 agreement, Year 2 construction (starting clock now)
   - End of year – break ground in Spring
   - 2-3 Administration & Community Building, 3-4 on Police and 4-5 on EMS

Answers:

C: Any advice you would like to give to the Facility Sub-Committee?
   - Separate needs from wants
   - Build for the future
   - Remember we are a small village
   - Communicate with everyone all the time about progress
   - Needs to look like Minerva Park – not an office building
   - Plan ahead
   - Gather all the facts
   - Formulate a budget early on
   - No increase in Taxes
   - Keep the Community Center modest
   - Consider sponsorship as one way to pay for the building (buy a brick)
   - Emergency preparedness (emergency shelter/generator/phone charging)
   - Sewers and other infrastructure funding does not take a back seat
   - Continuity in service (no service disruption during construction)
Parking Lot - Saved Ideas

- Storage for historical M.P. (could also incorporate into new community building)
- Community Pool – improve the bathroom/changing rooms – new or remodel
- Improve newsletter (don’t like the split with MPCA)
- Work on Better website – easier to navigate and find documents
- Rethink the street representative – or think about “On Call” like they use for schools to notify parents
- Proper Gazebo and Music Series
- Movie night at the pool
- After the first meeting, a group of bicycle enthusiasts had a group discussion regarding access to nearby trails.

Document prepared by Councilperson Diane Schrmpf
Please send any feedback to dschrimpf@minervapark.org