

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 Schrimpf

Please send any feedback to dschrimpf@minervapark.org

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