

AUHS Facilities Community Task Force

Meeting Minutes: March 29, 2011 South Campus Library

Attendance: 19

Minutes recorded by Steve Bailey of Donovan Group LLC

- I. Co-chair David Newman reviewed the document drafting process that occurred since the last meeting.
 - a) One thing that is missing is a section outlining the discovery process the group went through, examining the current facilities.
- II. Task force member Andy Matter gave a presentation on why educational fine arts are important for the school district.
 - a) Mr. Matter argued that the arts promote left brain vs. right brain development and support the 2020 vision for AHS. The school needs to invest in arts to maintain quality of education and, ultimately, property values.
 - b) Discussion:
 - i. Because the arts program has so many students enrolled, is there a lot of room for growth?
 - ii. For some students, the arts are their only connection to the school; without an arts program, dropout rates may increase.
 - iii. The current facility may be constraining the ability for the program to grow.
 - iv. With a great fine arts program, more open enrollment students may decide to come to Arrowhead.
- III. Mr. Newman led a discussion on 21st century learning environments
 - a) It's difficult to determine what it means to have a 21st century learning environment.
 - b) The challenge is that by building these types of classrooms, the school is taking a chance on what it means to have 21st century learning spaces.
 - c) Does 21st century learning mean more or less space is needed per student (in general)?
 - i. According to Bob Vajgrt, Architect with Eppstein Uhen Architects, is likely that it will mean less space for each student. How much exactly is unknown.
 - ii. Enlarging building space opens up space for 21st century learning and for future growth.
 - d) The actual structures may not be as important as the furniture and equipment within the space. Curriculum and technology should drive the space issues.

IV. The task force discussed the possibility of doing nothing with the facilities, and the option of having it as a recommendation provided to the Board of Education.

- a) Pro: The recommendation is based on the tax/financial/economic environment that exists at this time, and respects the discussions around the facilities that have taken place.
- b) Con: "Doing nothing" as a recommendation might be too time-specific. When the economy improves, the board should have something to look at when facility improvements are more viable.
- c) The group discussed if doing nothing has a place in the recommendation. The question was whether the task force should make recommendations for certain needs and if doing nothing is already an obvious option.
 - i. A new category might not be necessary, as members who don't want to do anything could vote no on the recommendations. However, right now, taxpayers might not feel that now is the right time to move forward on facilities upgrades.
 - ii. Ultimately, it is up to the school board to make a decision.
- d) One suggestion was that instead of having "do nothing" as a recommendation, the task force could spell out in its report that a "nay" vote on any particular need means that the group has decided that it is not a good time to move forward on a project.
 - i. Another idea is to have three voting options for each recommendation: Yah, nay, and nay (but with the addendum that members feel that right now is not a good time to move forward due to economic reasons).
 - ii. The argument came up that the task force is here to recommend what needs to be fixed, and not necessarily worry about the current economic conditions. When conditions improve, the board could decide to move forward then. The board has no obligation to start anything right away.
 - iii. Part of the executive summary will include the fact that the task force was concerned about the impact of projects on taxpayers.

V. The task force discussed the issues of Traffic, People and Parking:

- a) A majority of the task force agreed that the logistics of the parking and traffic flow around the building is obviously something that needs to be addressed.

VI. The task force discussed the Aquatic Center;

- a) The pool was built for the school and community needs in the 1970s and has not grown to meet current needs. It has been overlooked in favor of other areas for over 35 years.
- b) A couple years ago, the school implemented a new ventilation system at the current pool due to air quality issues.
- c) Within the conference, the pool has a reputation for being too small. There are problem areas in terms of flow and access to the locker rooms.
 - i. Athletes lining up to swim are interrupted by those trying to get to the locker rooms.

- d) Large swim meets bring in a lot of people, which helps spur more people patronizing local businesses.
 - i. The current pool cannot accommodate the Lake Country swim team's practices, so it has to split between renting three different pools. Allowing more groups to use the pool will create revenue for the school.
- e) The recommendation is to expand the pool to double the size of it, extending capacity.
 - i. The best option would be a 50m-competition pool to run both short and long meets.

VII. The group discussed the Field House.

- a) Take the gym that the school currently has and make it into a field house to fix some of the space issues there. Create a space that can be used by multiple sports, including for practices.
- b) The area needs a storage space for both sports and physical education needs.
- c) There is no facility that gets used more than the gym space. The current space is booked solid and does not allow for kids to engage in recreation.
- d) One option would be a self-standing field house and aquatic center, built into one.

VIII. Other business.

- a) Mr. Newman asked for volunteers to help put together the next version of the report.
- b) The task force members decided that if any meetings are scheduled after April 12, the rule that states that people cannot vote if they miss two consecutive meetings will not be in effect.
- c) Next meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. – South Campus Library