

Community Relations and Tourism Committee

MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2018

Present:

Arthur: Rod Randall, Christy Miller, Jenni Marner, Anita Krutsinger, Paul Pearce, Mac Condill, Bob Doan, Iris Dicks and Noel Dicks

Absent: Dick Hein, Dave Tiffan, Erica Carter, Nolan Lee, Cindy Lee and John Foran

Jenni Marner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Jenni provided a general overview of the status of the project for the new attendees.

At the last meeting, Jenni was asked to talk to Board members about the plans and gather some feedback from them. She completed that and brought their feedback back to the Committee. In general the Board feedback is as follows:

- 1) They are concerned with the cost of the improvements.
- 2) They would like the project to be staged in 3-5 projects over 10 years or so.
- 3) They have some concern about maintenance of the new facilities in relation to how we've handled the existing welcome center over the years.
- 4) In general: like the plan and all that it is trying to accomplish in the small space available to it.
- 5) Is TIF \$ a good use for this type of project that doesn't generate additional tax revenue?
- 6) Can we just use the existing facility better? Do upgrades there that aren't as pricey?
- 7) Is this the right investment in Arthur at this point?

Discussions were varied and plentiful upon review. Several comments from various people:

-Will the building be accessible at all hours? The Board was a bit concerned about 24 hr accessibility, but thought something like 6a-10pm might be feasible with the police helping to open/close facility.

-Not sure if the welcome center sign is enough. Really looking for a place for an electronic sign. Committee didn't feel this was the spot for it. Need to continue to look for space for it.

-Need more women's restrooms.

-Have we considered a portable bathroom? What about using Jurgen's Park for restrooms at a different location in downtown near IGA? This would be good for festivals too.

-The Village will be capable of doing some of the site preparations, which will save some \$\$.

-Need to ensure there are enough ADA accessible restrooms on site.

-Need to consider efficiency in lighting.

-Need to remember to consider the experience that we offer to our tourists. We are generally friendly, helpful people and want to continue to maintain a personal touch and not strictly go to automated device and electronic screens. Some electronics are ok, just not all.

-We must consider maintenance/staffing of the site.

-There is a belief that there is/will be significant local resident resistance. How will those questions be answered?

-Don't let the \$\$ get in the way of the dream.

-Have we stolen enough other people's ideas? Is there a second idea to how the site could be developed? No, not really. MSA was contracted for one design. Our local committee provided a laundry list of "needs" that we had for the site and worked with MSA to develop a plan.

-In general don't like the shade structure proposed for the west side. Not airy enough, too solid. Not sure what works better.

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- TIF funding – can we borrow from it to get this going now?
- Local businessperson mentioned that tourists keep the downtown businesses open and do help the existing businesses.
- Love the idea of Amish Uber. We are starting to see a need for transportation for those who visit our community.

Things Jenni will ask MSA to proceed with:

- 1) Make sure lighting is included in cost opinion.
- 2) Staged construction costs (site prep and soft amenities, restrooms, info center, shelter were the ordered 4 we thought of)
- 3) More restrooms in the new restroom building. Shift building a few feet either way to gain an additional 2 women's at least. Also, if it's acceptable, 2 ADA compliant for women, 1 for men with a total of 6 for women, 4 for men. If slightly asymmetrical, that is okay.
- 4) Would like to have two electric car charging stations, just north of the restrooms (or even just north of the hitching racks further east). These would be metered stations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenni Marner



RP
Full + day



Date 3/5/18