

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Norm Childress called the study session to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present were: Mayor Childress and Councilmembers Pam Horner, Mike Bren, Diana Jennings, Bill Moore and Joan Souders. Councilmember Jan McDonald and Jesse Palacios were absent.

Staff present were: City Administrator Scott Staples, City Attorney Jack Maxwell, Parks & Recreation Director Mike Carpenter and City Clerk Anita Palacios.

2. COMMUNITY CENTER DIRECTION

City Administrator Staples explained that in late 2007, Council directed staff to begin the process of using the existing senior center facility for more multi-purpose type uses and not just senior center programming. In addition, the City entered into a joint use agreement with YVCC for use of the senior center. Once Council agreed to sell the senior center to YVCC, the next step was to determine a future site for senior center and recreation programming. The initial site for a new community center was to retrofit the existing library once the new City/YVCC joint use library was constructed. A number of issues were raised regarding the existing library, particularly insufficient parking. Alternative sites suggested by staff were Country Park and the old Bleyhl store property. With regard to the Bleyhl property, General Manager Greg Robertson has indicated that the property was not currently available. He noted that the deadline for submittal of a general purpose grant application to the Community Development Block Grant program was January 21, 2010.

Parks & Recreation Director Carpenter presented three site options with specific pros and cons for the proposed community center. The facility would house all current senior citizen activities while expanding recreational opportunities for all age groups. It would also be the new home for the Grandview Parks and Recreation Department.

OPTION ONE: Country Park Events Center

PROS

- Site location would compliment existing components such as the Ralph Scott Memorial Ball Fields, George Young Building, Beavan Community Building and the Amphitheater.
- The Parks and Recreation Department would have a greater and more visible presence in promoting the usage of the Country Park Events Center.
- There was room for expansion.
- There was room to accommodate a gym facility.
- Parking was readily available and more than sufficient.
- Creates better ongoing access to the new Seahawk playground for the public.
- Excellent access off of Interstate 82.
- All required utilities were in existence on site.
- Opportunities to strengthen partnerships between the National Guard, Yakima Valley Fair & Rodeo and Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic.

- New facility could be designed to meet specific facility needs.
- City in position to sell the existing library facility or redevelop for economic purposes.
- People for People would continue to provide needed transportation to the new facility.

CONS

- Initial cost was more expensive.
- Not centrally located within city limits.

OPTION TWO: Restoration of Existing Library Facility

PROS

- City owns property and building.
- Centrally located within city limits.
- Could tie in museum element.
- Facility has new roof, lighting and carpeting.
- Utilities on site.

CONS

- Unknown hidden costs associated with the renovation of an older facility; change orders are more possible.
- Limited parking available/possibility of patron competing with business for downtown parking.
- Limited room for expansion.
- Increased maintenance issues with older facility.

OPTION THREE: Old Bleyhl Store Site

PROS

- Utilities were on site.
- Centrally located within city limits.
- New facility could be designed to meet specific facility needs.
- Room for adequate on-site parking.
- Improving a site in the downtown area (aesthetic value).
- City in position to sell the existing library facility or redevelop for economic purposes.

CONS

- City would be required to purchase the property.
- Initial cost was more expensive.
- Limited room for future expansion.
- Potential traffic congestion onto the busy arterial street.

He added that the desired components for the proposed community center facility included:

- kitchen facility
- offices
- storage area which would include a storage room for the American Legion
- dining area
- computer room

- meeting/conference room
- game area
- restroom facilities
- small dance floor
- stage area

It was noted that the proposed location for the community center would be south of the George Young Building at Country Park.

Council discussed the option of relocating the museum to Country Park.

Councilmember Bren suggested the option of relocating the museum to the historical Grandview Investment building at the corner of Division and Second Street.

Following discussion, Council consensus was to proceed with Country Park as the proposed community center location for submittal of a CDBG general purpose grant application.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Childress adjourned the study session at 6:55 p.m.

Mayor Norm Childress

Anita Palacios, City Clerk