

TERM OF COMMISSION: March Session of the February Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Boone County Government Center Commission Chambers

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Don Stamper
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller
District II Commissioner Linda Vogt
County Counselor John Patton
Deputy County Clerk Ashley Williams

The regular meeting of the County Commission was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: Sturgeon Recreation Project

Johnny Robinson, president of the Sturgeon Recreation Association, presented the Commission with an update on their Sturgeon Recreation center project, and said that their organizations had some questions regarding the use of the Health Care Profit Share Dollars.

Commissioner Stamper said their goal was to match those funds with local initiative to achieve projects that might not otherwise be done. He said they deliberately tried to build in flexibility and required only that organizations: build to an acceptable standard and deal with prevailing wage when that type of work is required. He said they tried to leave room and latitude in the contract so that organizations could achieve their goals. He said that yes, that money could be utilized for architectural fees, that building design is part of the cost. The grater concern, he said, comes from the scope of the overall project. Commissioner Stamper said the goal is to have these projects succeed and be an asset to the community. The funds, he said, do not account for on-going operating costs. This is a one time investment, he said.

Mr. Robinson said they were not asking for on-going funds. He said they envision the recreation center to be a community building, defined by the people in the school district. He asked if the building would be open to anybody in the County or could they restrict its use.

Commissioner Stamper said that was up to the organization. He said the building would be a community asset and the Commission would not be dictating policy.

Commissioner Vogt said that question had not come up before, but her immediate response is that the projects are being built with public funds and it seemed to her if someone to use the building in the way its designed, that use would be appropriate.

Commissioner Miller said they could have a policy that required a charge.

Mr. Robinson said he understood they could have a tournament and charge \$12, but what if the building became used primarily by people outside of Sturgeon. Could the building be limited to the school district and its alumni or does it have to be open to anyone in Boone County, or was that their organization's decision.

Commissioner Miller said she never envisioned outside groups coming to the city. She said she saw it as a local investment, as Sturgeon's building.

Commissioner Stamper said his response is in the way they structured the agreement. The agreement proposed, he said, is to let the organizations establish use policies. He said he would be disappointed if the County Commission wanted to have a public hearing and were denied use of the building. Our agreement with the organizations, he said, does not put any restrictions on use.

Commissioner Vogt said that the people, as a whole, were not going to support the building, once it is built. Some political entity, she said, would be responsible for its on-going maintenance. She said their organization could establish policies.

Commissioner Stamper said the Sturgeon Recreation Association's question was could they limit use of the building.

Commissioner Miller said it would be up to their organization to make the policies.

Commissioner Vogt said that part of her said they were worrying about something they didn't need to be worrying about.

Commissioner Stamper said maybe the better question is, is the organization in a position to say no.

Commissioner Vogt replied they were in a position to say no under some conditions.

Commissioner Stamper said they answered the question regarding architectural fees.

Mr. Robinson said at this time they didn't know the exact cost for the building and asked if they could come back to ask for an adjustment to the amount given.

Commissioner Miller said they needed to treat the project the same way the County would by redesigning the project. She said there was not an endless pot of money available and the Association might have to give up some amenities and add them later.

Commissioner Stamper said they had not created an avenue to apply for more money. Right now, he said, the fund has a balance of \$2.5 and they had hoped to keep it closer to \$3. There are currently projects, he said, that might require them to dip further into that money. He said he didn't see a lot of availability in the future.

Commissioner Stamper said there might be some merit in charging a \$50 rental fee to outside groups. It would only take ten uses a month for them to then cover their estimated operating costs.

Mr. Robinson said that until they started their fundraising, they would not know how long it would take to raise the money, if indeed they could even raise the money. He said they were not fundraisers.

Commissioner Stamper said that no completion dates had been set, but if there was not substantial action in 24-36 months, they might begin to question the validity of the project.

Mr. Robinson asked if their fundraiser fell a bit short of the project costs, could they come back and ask for more money. He said they wanted the project completed in a short time frame.

Commissioner Miller said that several of the projects they helped fund had been in the works for 2-3 years. She said the organization needed to put in that effort and that 2-3 years is a reasonable time for a community to work towards finishing a project.

Mr. Robinson asked, once the project started, how often would the County expend funds.

Commissioner Stamper said the allocations had been broken into quarterly increments. He said they had already earned money to the second quarter of the contractual period. He said they recognized some projects will take a greater length of time.

Darrin Kelly, vice president of the Association asked if it was based on the day the project was started.

Commissioner Miller said they could be flexible, as they had been with other projects.

Commissioner Stamper said that the Senior Center in Ashland was set up on the same quarterly payment format, but because they were ahead of schedule, they sent the County an invoice for \$86,000. He said they went down and inspected the work and authorized the expenditure to meet the documentable expenses.

Mr. Robinson said he hated to sound pessimistic, but the City of Sturgeon was concerned if the Association starts this project and it works well and then the community loses interest, would the city be obligated to keep the building open.

Commissioner Stamper said it was their hope and goal that the building would be a community resource and asset to the community.

County Counselor John Patton said if the Association would sell the building, the County would get their money back. If the project is maintained for 20 years, there would be no pay back.

Commissioner Stamper said the building could be passed to civic or public control.

Mr. Kelly asked if the city could operate the building and only keep it open four times a year.

Commissioner Stamper said the Commission had no desire to run their building.

Commissioner Vogt said they were simply interested in supporting the population centers with assets that would benefit them.

Mr. Patton said the contract was worded to avoid the organizations selling to private parties when the County had invested \$100,000 and then the city would pocket the money.

Commissioner Stamper said that the contract does not call for punitive actions. By signing the contract, he said, the Association was saying they believed the project was achievable. He asked if the City of Sturgeon followed County building codes, or if they had adopted their own codes.

A member of the organization said the city had only adopted residential codes, not commercial building codes.

Mr. Kelly said that when the new school was built, the County came in and said the parking lot had to be paved. He asked if they would be required to do that, or if they could just pave handicapped areas.

Mr. Patton said they would have to follow applicable building codes.

Commissioner Stamper said they might want to consider having the city adopt a commercial building code. He said the intent was to have the building built to code, whether it was the city of Sturgeon's or the county's. If the city does not have commercial building codes, then the Commission would expect it to be built to County code.

Mr. Robinson said they hoped it make the building accessible to everyone. He said they had considered charging a fee for a membership that would allow members to vote. He said they were part of the city and were operating under city control. He said they thought they could get enough people to join to cover their monthly operating expenses. A magnetic card would be given to members so they could use the facility anytime they wanted and, he said, the card system would let them know who has been using the facility.

Commissioner Vogt said that Sturgeon and Centralia do an awful lot of things together. She said there was a lot of interest in Centralia having a place to walk and thought this might be an opportunity for everyone to work together. She said she was not telling them what to do with their project, but that a joint effort might be beneficial to everyone. Commissioner Vogt said it was no wonder they had questions and that a lot of the projects already had these issues worked out. She said she commended them for working hard to try to get up to speed with the other projects and that a project of this nature would greatly benefit their community.

Mr. Robinson said that one of their biggest challenges had been communication and that in order to let people know what was going on, they had started a newsletter.

Mr. Kelly said they had never officially thanked the Commission for the funding.

Commissioner Stamper said they wanted the project to be successful.

SUBJECT: Employee Reclassification for Collector's Office

County Collector Pat Lensmeyer requested a job reclassification in her office, changing the Steno Clerk III position, range 12, to that of Accounting Clerk, range 16. She said the function of the position had changed dramatically. The request, she said, has been approved by the reclassification committee.

Commissioner Stamper moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone authorize the reclassification of Steno Clerk III, range 12, to that of Accounting Clerk, range 16; as recommended by the Job Reclassification committee.

Commissioner Vogt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 139-98.**

SUBJECT: Agreement with City of Columbia for Animal Control Services

Commissioner Miller moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone approve an agreement with the City of Columbia for animal control services.

Commissioner Vogt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 140-98.**

SUBJECT: Supplement Agreement with Eagle Foundation, Inc.

Commissioner Stamper moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone approve and authorize the Presiding Commissioner to sign an amendment to the Boone County Community Improvement Project Cooperative Agreement.

Commissioner Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 141-98.**

SUBJECT: Permit to Use Courthouse Grounds

Commissioner Stamper moved that the County Commission of the County of Boone approve an application for permit for organization use of the Boone County Courthouse Grounds by the Columbia Festival of the Arts for a visual, performing and literary arts fair from Friday, September 25, 1998 until Sunday, September 27, 1998.

Commissioner Vogt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **Order 142-98.**

SUBJECT: Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Stamper reported he had authorized a sole source acquisition of training tapes for the Human Resources department.

Commissioner Miller reported that on PBS on March 29, 30 and 31 there would be a Bill Moyers expose on "Addiction: Close to Home." She suggested Commissioner Vogt look into the possibility of holding a public forum to discuss the show.

Commissioner Vogt reported they were interviewing candidates to work at the Centralia Clinic.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Attest:

Don Stamper
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Linda Vogt
District II Commissioner