



MINUTES:

Date: January 25, 2023

Location: LaRosa's Meeting Room

Time of Meeting: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Members present: Adam Beissel; Craig Bennett; Ken Bogard and Alex French

Absent: Holli Hansel and Jake Richardson

Staff present: Casey Wooddell and Deanna Barbour

Special Guests: TRI Board – Doug Curry; Kris Winkler; Joe Wilhelm; Tom Holmes; Rick Verst and Missy Burke.

Call to Order: Mr. Bogard called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Ms. French motioned to approve the agenda.

2nd Mr. Bennett seconded.

Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ms. Bogard motioned to approve the minutes from December 2022 meeting.

2nd Ms. French seconded.

Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Recreation Reports – Community Center

a. Presentation – TRI Board

Mr. Curry thanked Mr. Wooddell for the invitation to the meeting. Mr. Curry stated he thinks the TRI Board, Parks and Recreation and the Rec Board are all moving toward and wanting the same goal. This presentation shows a little bit of history of the TRI and things we would like to see and the vision we have in moving forward.

Community Connections: OPRD, Senior Center, Oxford Press, Miami University, Community Arts Center, the City, Talawanda Schools, Local Healthcare Providers and many more to come. This project is a Community project of memories, of the TRI, of facility uses and helping people better understand what TRI stands for and its mission.

Mr. Curry noted the TRI started as a volunteer group much like it is now with a vision. Arthur P. Goldner's words said it best in what they wanted to create. "A facility to bring people together for better understanding and to further improve the moral stature of our community; what is important is how we use it."



Mr. Curry listed some dates of significance:

1940 Oxford's first Recreation Board established.

1966 Talawanda Recreation Inc. (TRI) established a formal non-profit.

1968 Arthur P. Goldner / June E. Goldner and Margaret V. Cogan donated 6 acres for the TRI facility.

1969 – TRI Ground breaking. Construction Costs \$250,000. Donated by 10 groups, 246 families, 54 civic groups and 18 corporations.

1976 – TRI facility enhancement drive began and 3 additional acres from Cogo, inc.

Mr. Curry showed the most recent updates and upgrades to the grounds have been; Skatepark, outdoor basketball court and outdoor pickle ball courts/tennis courts.

Mr. Curry added the vision for the TRI Community Center is a new facility; this could be an entirely new building or could include renovation of the current facility and adding on to the property behind the current TRI building.

Mr. Curry stated the future of community health and well-being in Oxford Ohio is what this new facility would represent. This plan is our first attempt at putting something together that would include everything we want. That size of facility would be around 45,500 sq. ft of indoor recreation, conference; classroom and activity area. This includes a larger workout fitness area, a wing for the seniors, 3 additional basketball courts and bigger childcare rooms.

Mr. Curry noted they are identifying major donors and partners and will continue to finalize plans and details. Mr. Curry added they had a little sticker shock on the price per sq. ft and originally were going to fundraise in house, but after learning the possible cost they decided to look at hiring a professional fundraising group.

Mr. Curry said our initial goal and initial priority is gym space. Mr. Wooddell added it's also the goal to not compete with other options in the community, but to serve the community with what they actually need. Mr. Curry said depending on the fundraising and funding we get will depend on what we start with, beginning around \$5 million. Ms. Winkler advised we are looking to renovate the current building that has good bones and we'll start with that option. Mr. Curry added and see what it can be changed into. Mr. Bennett asked how much money can be made when it is all finished? Mr. Curry said that is the other piece in the collaboration with the City. The TRI wants to work with the City and wants to build the facility, but the City will continue to operate the facility as they do now. Mr. Curry added Mr. Wooddell may need to put together a revenue plan for the new optional facility. Mr. Beissel asked if the gym space would include bleachers space and retractable bleachers? Mr. Curry said that is optional right now and something we'll be looking at. Mr. Wooddell said when touring Spooky Nook this week, there were no bleachers around the gyms. They had an area around the gyms overlooking the courts where people could stand but nowhere to sit. Mr. Bennett said he didn't know if we would want these things, but what about weddings, birthday parties and other rentals and events? Mr. Curry said that is also up to Mr. Wooddell and how they want to run the facility. Mr. Bogard noted it's a public investment, the City built the Aquatic Center, are we going to ask the City and/or residents for an extra tax? Mr. Curry said we have had a couple meetings with Doug Elliot, the City Manager and none of those conversations have been about a tax. From the Board meeting last week it was unanimous that the TRI Board is going to hire a fundraising company. We have a couple contacts we are going to move forward with. Ms. Winkler said the TRI's goal has always been to fundraise this privately, not to use a tax. Mr. Curry added this is coming from intentions that are pure. There are no politics with this endeavor; we just want to continue to do this for the Talawanda community.



Ms. French said she agrees 100% this would be great for the community, and agreeing that with other things coming it may make people tax-sensitive. The messaging is starting to get out to the community, maybe without the TRI being ready for that yet. Ms. French added if there is a way she can help with this facilitation

she would love to. Mr. Curry said they were approached by the Seniors and would love to be a part of that connection, several conversations with Kate Rousmaniere and we have a similar vision and we want that relationship to work out and thinks that will work out with the City as well.

Ms. French said child care is a huge priority and need in this community. She is a believer that having the child care center and the seniors there to have this multi-generational focused facility is a great plan. Mr. Wooddell said they are pieces of this project the TRI Board is just not ready to publicize this since there are so many unanswered questions. A floor plan or design concept isn't ready to publicize, and the board is still working through the partnerships, sponsors and fundraising questions. Publicizing too early can result in too many questions. Ms. Winkler asked Ms. French if she suggests the TRI Board come to a council meeting yet? Ms. French said it might be a good idea, and she is ready to serve on the City liaison sub-committee so that council will feel like they are better educated on this project. Mr. Curry said this is as far as we've ever pushed it as a Board, and we're excited about it and others are excited about it and this is where we are right now.

Mr. Wooddell reminded the Recreation Board that many questions will come up during this process; one of those questions will be about why the TRI Board doesn't just donate or sell the land to the City? TRI Board members are completely volunteer, and they simply want to do this to make something good happen for this community. It's pure with all positive intentions. None of the members on this board even have kids involved in youth sports or other youth programming any longer; there is no personal gain for them; they truly want to follow the original plan and legacy of generosity started over 50 years ago and they need the support of the Recreation Board and community.

Mr. Holmes said it's kind of impressive when you look at how this started.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

Nominations:

Chair

Motion: Mr. Bogard nominated Mr. Craig Bennett as Chair.

2nd. Mr. Beissel seconded

All Aye – 4-0

Secretary

Motion: Mr. Bennett nominated Deanna Barbour as Secretary.

2nd. Mr. Beissel seconded

All Aye – 4-0

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Bogard motioned to adjourn

2nd. Mr. Beissel seconded

All Aye – 4-0



Meeting adjourned 7:26PM

Next Meeting: February 13 – 11:30am