

ARENA ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Everett Arena 8:00 A.M.

Present: Nick Wallner, Dan Arndt, Joe Farrelly, Councilor Gail Matson, Chris Brown, Mick Mounsey, Mike Gfroerer, Councilor Zandra Rice-Hawkins, General Services Director Chip Chesley; Public Properties Superintendent Jay Burgess; Arena & Properties Manager Jeff Bardwell
Absent: Gerry Blanchette

Meeting called to order at 8:10 AM

New Entrance Update

Jeff Bardwell brought the committee up to date on the new entrance status. Over the summer staff and committee members worked on the proforma, specifically trying to get a good revenue number on the restaurant portion. Chris Brown, Jay Burgess and Jeff Bardwell reached out to several restaurant contacts but were unable to get any response. Staff met with city administration in September. City administration is directing the arena to meet with FPAC (Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee) in November. Pending the outcome of that meeting the plan is to go to Council in December with the request for a \$5,500 appropriation to complete costing and permission to send out a RFI (Request For Interest) on the restaurant piece.

Mick Mounsey questioned how long a project like this would take. Jay Burgess responded if we had the funding in place this is probably a 30 month project. Nick Wallner asked what if there is no interest in the restaurant after the RFI goes out. Jeff Bardwell explained we would have to regroup on the current conceptual plan. Discussion took place on other sports facilities that have restaurants.

Discussion took place on the I93 project and what affect that may have projects in the vicinity. Mike Gfroerer attended a meeting on the I93 project and he believed the project would not move forward until the affected towns it impacts are satisfied with the design.

Chip Chesley indicated that the FPAC meeting is an opportunity to introduce the project to most of the council in a more informal atmosphere and is more of a questions and answer format. Mick Mounsey questioned how the costing would be figured since the project would be several years out. Jay Burgess indicated there would be an escalator built in so we should have an accurate number three years out. Dan Arndt asked what other projects are going on in the city. Discussion took place on other projects such as the Terrill Park project at exit 13. Dan Arndt asked about the perception of this project being for ice users. Jeff Bardwell explained that the arena operates as an ice rink six months out of the year with the remainder of the time being for off ice events such as Antique Shows, Cat Shows, etc. Several years ago the arena polled the events on attendance numbers. For the number of events that the arena hosts it brings in over 20,000 attendees. Also Plymouth State University did a study on estimated traveler spending in local economies. Using information from that study shows that even if only 15% of the attendees were from out of town that it would bring in approximately \$250,000 in indirect revenue to the local economy. Chip Chesley added that this project is a very forward thinking in pursuing a multipurpose facility. Gail Matson added that a multipurpose facility is a good use for the property.

Other

Mike Gfroerer asked about the traffic light at the west entrance to the arena and was there anything that could be done on the length of time you have to sit there with no traffic coming to turn. Jeff Bardwell explained that he brought that question up to engineering. Discussion took place on the length of time and other lights in the city and there set up with left turn on yellow blinking. Jay Burgess added that maybe we make it part of this project for consideration of calibration of timing on the light.

Gail Matson made a motion to adjourn, Joe Farrelly seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 AM

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey R. Bardwell
Arena & Properties Manager