

Agriculture & Extension Education Committee
January 13, 2009
Minutes

Committee members present: Paul Dean, Tom Rudolph, Romelle Vandervest Denny Thompson, Wilbur Petroskey.

Others present: Dan Kuzlik, Jim Winkler, Kari Lazars, Joe Brauer, Jim Kumbera, Curt Krouze and Kerri Ison.

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Dean.

Approve agenda: Motion by Thompson/Vandervest to approve today's agenda. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve minutes: Motion by Petroskey/Rudolph to approve the minutes of December 13, 2008 with noted correction on Page 2. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

2/10/09	1:30 pm	Extension Classroom
3/10/09	1:30 pm	Extension Classroom

OCEDC monthly update: Kumbera updated Committee members on the community stakeholders meeting held in December regarding the new business park. About 600 people were invited to this meeting and only 35 attended. Those that attended provided valuable input. The OCEDC Board will meet tomorrow to discuss the outcome of that meeting. Kumbera noted an additional stakeholders meeting will be held later this spring and hopes for a better turnout. The business park is a significant project for Oneida County, the Northern region and the entire state. If the project is to be done right, input is needed--if it is not done well and properly it could fail. Kumbera voiced this project is not something of his own making and came out of various meetings and forums held over that past few years. This is the vision of those who attended those meetings and will provide for the wants and needs of the community members who attended these meetings over the years.

Rudolph attended the stakeholders meeting and felt there was a lot of good input but he is concerned at the lack of involvement of local elected officials. He noted there continues to be questions about the project but it seems as if no one is interested enough to attend the meetings held over the past few years where the information has been developed and provided. He doesn't know what the answer is, but he is concerned at the lack of county supervisors' involvement.

Kuzlik added there is an attitude that Oneida County is anti-economic development, but he doesn't believe that is the case. He feels people don't want us to mess w/the ambiance of the Northwoods. This park would attract additional economic development and jobs, but recognizes the character of the land and creates a community park with trails, streams, and ponds. This is not the typical industrial park to help attract investors to the area.

Monthly budget report: Motion by Vandervest/Thompson to approve the monthly budget report for the period ending 12/31/08. All ayes; motion carried.

Monthly invoices: Motion by Petroskey/Rudolph to approve the monthly invoices as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Order of the day changed by unanimous consent.

UW-Extension lease w/Airport: Kuzlik requested this be on the agenda as the issue was discussed at the 12/15/08 Buildings & Ground meeting, who made a decision to switch from a yearly lease with the Airport to a month-by-month lease. He noted this decision could be dramatic to the department's operation. It is not a plea that the department couldn't operate somewhere else but is concerned with the decision that was made and the lack of information provided at that meeting. Kuzlik provided information regarding current use of meeting rooms during the day, evening and weekends. Other issues of concern are the moving of the satellite dish, rewiring for Wisline capabilities and the emergency management plan to use the facility in case of a disaster.

Krouze noted the Courthouse does not currently have space to house the department—and noted there will not be space until other buildings are vacated and/or other departments are relocated. There currently is not a good set up for evening and weekend usage of the Courthouse for meetings/programs as there is no security presence and the doors are routinely locked at 5:15 p.m. and the building is closed on weekends. There would be a cost for after hours use which include custodial services. Also, because of regulations put forth by the National Register of Historic buildings, the satellite dish cannot be placed on the Courthouse building.

Brauer noted the Airport is a county/city owned building and is open from 3 a.m. to 11 p.m. He noted he was instructed to seek a new tenant by Holewinski at the Buildings and Grounds meeting. Brauer feels he is caught in a bad situation now that the lease is month-by-month – it makes it difficult to budget from year to year. He is concerned that if the Department can be moved at any point during the year he will be unable to meet his budget. He doesn't want the Commission, this Committee or the County getting into a position that if a new tenant is found, then what? Brauer noted the Airport Commission, would like to see a three-year lease, with a 30 day notification and vacate within four months. Brauer asked for clear direction from this Committee and Buildings & Grounds as how to proceed and if he needs to start looking for a tenant.

Dean noted the move isn't something that would happen right now, but a look down the road. It was not the intent to move the department right now and it is only in the discussion stage. Lengthy discussion followed.

Kuzlik believes the Buildings & Grounds Committee only wanted to pre-plan, but made a decision without all of the information. He suggested making it a yearly lease, instead of a month-by-month lease. In light of the difficulty in budgeting and that the agreement is reciprocal, Krouze agreed. The cost to the County if the Department is moved and the Airport does not find a tenant is \$23,500. Rudolph felt asking the Airport Commission to look for a tenant was very premature.

Vandervest felt it would be difficult to move the department to the Courthouse considering what programs are offered and the amount of use the facilities see. She also questioned the motion made at the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting and if that decision can be revisited and/or changed.

Thompson felt that perhaps operating at status quo won't be sustainable in the long term and maybe there are town-owned facilities that could be used for weekend or evening programming.

Dean urged Kuzlik and Krouze to speak with Corporation Counsel regarding the lease and the recent motion made at the Buildings & Grounds Committee. Krouze noted the information shared today was not discussed at that meeting and both he and Kuzlik concurred it should be brought to the Buildings & Grounds Committee and perhaps revisit the lease issue.

Motion by Rudolph/Vandervest that the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee support a one-year extension of the Airport lease with UW-Extension, pending review/approval of lease by Corporation Counsel. Ayes: Rudolph, Vandervest, Petroskey, Thompson. Nay: Dean.

Brauer thanked the Committee for listening and guidance so he can better manage the Airport facility.

Youth Court: Winkler reported the Planning Committee met with the judges last week and they are very supportive of program. Judge O'Melia is anxious for the program to start. Kris Carrico, KIN, has been given 8 hours/week to coordinate the program and will be meeting with teachers at NCSS and RHS to begin the youth recruitment process to serve on the panel. The Committee is drawing up final procedures and a letter will be sent to the District Judge for authorization in the next few weeks. The Committee will be meeting with law enforcement officials to go over the process and hopes to have court in session in April. Evening court sessions may be held at the Courthouse, UW-Extension office or City Council Chambers.

Petroskey attended the judges meeting as well and noted the judges were very supportive.

There is no cost to Oneida County for the program, thus County Board approval is not needed and a resolution is not necessary. However, the blessing of the County Board would be one way the County could endorse the program. Rudolph felt the support of County Board should be documented somehow and Committee members felt this could be done during a discussion following a presentation by Winkler on the program and how it will be run. Winkler felt this could be done when the plans are finalized and a written report could be forwarded to County Board members in March or April. Discussion followed.

Fair invoices: Motion by Vandervest/Petroskey to approve the invoices for the Oneida County Fair as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Oneida County Fair Planning: Kuzlik noted the Planning Team is meeting tonight at 5:15 p.m. Bill Bell, City Administrator and Freda Waalkens, Hodag Farmers Market, both plan to attend. The office received four applications for the fair secretary position and the Planning Team will address the issue at their meeting tonight.

Winkler spoke with Mike Skubal, who noted the City applied for a grant to fund a theatre troupe for that same weekend. This may tie in well with the Fair. Ison noted the dates for the fair have changed to Friday, Saturday, Sunday – August 14-16, 2009.

Research Summit: Kuzlik invited all Committee members to the 2nd Annual Northwoods Research Summit. A grant was received last year to fund the event and about 70 people registered. This year

five sponsors were procured to fund the program. The event will be held on February 12, 2009 at Treehaven. Keynote speaker is Dr. John Greeler from the Bioenergy Center in Madison who will discuss using natural resources in different ways.

Rudolph felt Committee members should attend, if possible, as it would be beneficial information and it is important to support the department -- hopefully the research aspect it will become one of the mainstays of the new business park. Discussion followed.

Monthly agent reports: Motion by Vandervest/Rudolph to approve the monthly agent reports as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Out of county travel requests:

Kuzlik:

1/21/-25/09	New Partners for Smart Growth Conference	New Mexico**
1/27/29/09	Sustainable Communities Workshop	Madison**
2/3-4/-09	ND CNRED Agent In-service	Price County*

Winkler:

1/28/09	ND 4-H Staff Meeting	Phillips*
1/30-2/1/09	ND Winter Camp	Mellen*
2/10-11/09	Grant reading for DPI	Madison**

*county expense
**district/state expense

Motion by Vandervest/Petroskey to approve the out-of-county travel requests as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Public comment: None.

Items for next agenda: Fair planning report, Airport/UW-Extension lease, Teen Court.

Adjournment: Motion by Rudolph/Vandervest at 2:45 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Paul Dean, Chair