

**Symmes Advisory Committee Public Use Working Group
Meeting Minutes, 17 September, 2002,
Symmes Hospital**

Attending: Harris Band, Greg Blass, Ellen Kushner, Suzi Lubar, Brian Rehrig (Chair), Steve Frigand, Ann LeRoy, Deb O'Donnell,

Not Attending: Jim Marzilli, Linda Privitera, Sue Sheffler, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Denis Sullivan

Also Attending: Lucy Holly, Representatives from Coalition for a Treehouse at Symmes (CATS): Carolyn Conrade Kenney, Susan Cronin Ruderman, Nina Fisher, Julie Rackliffe Lucey

The meeting was promptly called to order at 7:00 PM.

Minutes of prior meeting

The minutes of the Symmes Advisory Committee Public Use Working Group, held on September 3rd, 2002 were not ready for review.

Review of Correspondence

Brian Rehrig circulated to the group a draft a letter to Fire Chief Maimone regarding his proposal for a relocated fire station to the Symmes site. The draft of the was reviewed with attending members and all agreed felt it articulated how the PUWG felt the proposal was inappropriate for Symmes site, as it did not meet the criteria working groups adopted criteria.

Continuing business

Steve lead a discussion of members observations regarding the criteria evaluation exercise. Observations during the exercise and review of the outcomes supported that those filling out the chart were doing so appropriately – that participants could follow the instructions and use the chart without undue confusion. Given the results of the exercise and members “gut feeling”, it was agreed that we had narrowed the field for public use concepts which met our criteria.

Member research

Brian thanked everyone for their research into their chosen public use models. He stressed that due to the shortness of time and budget on the part of VHB, the more precise we can be in of models of proposed facilities/uses, the better: both in terms of finding existing facilities illustrate our intentions and/or drafts of descriptions for facilities and financial models. Preferably, all use proposal packages sent onto VHB should include all three types of information gathered by working group members to focus and speed VHB's efforts rather than rely on them to do this research.

Coalition for a Treehouse at Symmes (CATS)

CATS members (listed above and including PUWG member Deb O'Donnell) presented to the group a description of a community center that they would like to see at the Symmes site. Susan related how their process developed as an outgrowth from trying to find a new venue for a new Tot Stop facility which led them to uncovering a need in the town for a place where a broader age range of residents could use. Their research also included some possible funding/grant sources for such a facility. CATS' description for a Community facility included play spaces for youngsters, an aquatic center, cafeteria, community center and outdoor gardens, play spaces and fitness trails. There was further discussion as to how the PUWG and CATS could work together in the future defining what such a facility would look like, and how it could possibly be funded.

Prioritization of Public uses.

The group focused their remaining time on prioritizing which public use concepts should be forwarded to VHB for their review. Steve Frigand offered to prepare the list for VHB which included: Natural wooded areas, Walking trails, Scenic vista park, indoor pool, core community center with or without pool, and or performing arts component, Art cultural center.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.