

**City of Franklin Community Center Ad Hoc Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2008**

I. Call to Order: 5:00 PM.

Roll Call: Present—Mayor Tom Taylor [5:35]; Aldermen Solomon and Skowronski; Ed Holpfer; Casper Green; Norm Hintz; Scott Thinnis; Randy Ritter [5:40], William Wucherer, Franklin Public School Superintendent Steve Patz and Brad Anderson. Excused—None. Absent—None.

II. Citizen Comment: None

III. Approval of Minutes from June 10, 2008: Alderman Skowronski motioned and Norm Hintz seconded to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

IV. New Business:

A. Impact Fees—Alderman Solomon reported on the current status of impact fees collected by the City of Franklin. \$1.1 million are held in reserve at this time. An additional match of \$1.1 million is required from the City of Franklin in order to fully use these funds. These impact fees are specified for a community center. The City of Franklin no longer collects impact fees for a community center due to statutory changes. Current funds held in reserve must be spent by 2010 or returned to the payees proportionate to the 5 year cycle in which the funds were collected. A 3-year extension for use of impact fees may be possible for impact fees current held in reserve.

B. Location/Function—Location of a community center was briefly discussed and tabled pending Common Council commitment to construct a community center. In general, committee members speculated that several privately owned sites currently exist within the city boundaries as well as the possibility of attaching a community center to city hall was mentioned. The acreage associated with a community center will be better understood when its functionality is defined and building footprint is designed. Land purchase was discussed as a necessary step that may precede the actual construction of a community center by one or more years.

Significant discussion occurred regarding the functionality of a community center. The generalized conclusion of the discussion was that a community center should provide both indoor and outdoor activities; provide both active and passive opportunities for diverse activities/socialization/community involvement; and provide these opportunities for the youngest up to and including our oldest community members.

Discussion also was directed at better understanding the actual needs/wants/desires of community members as well as further review of a community center as an initiative that the common council may pursue now, in the near future or if at all. The possibility of a referendum on the question of a community center construction was voiced. The Committee suggested that

the Common Council be advised of the Ad Hoc Committee interest in a needs assessment by a professional agent through a Request-for-Proposal [RFP] process. The cost associated with the needs assessment would be paid through impact fees and any applicable city match. In addition, committee members requested that any previous studies or survey be brought to the next committee meeting.

Discussion also involved the future considerations for the facility operations including facility management and necessary staff. The committee members from the school district suggested an interest in collaborating in this aspect of a community center. Likewise, the possibility of locating a community center where both the city and school district could benefit from a joint effort was suggested. While preliminary and broad in application, the possibility of a partnership between the city and school district was considered a possibility that should be advanced to the Common Council for review.

Alderman Solomon recommended that William Wucherer share with the Common Council at the August 5th Committee of the Whole the Ad Hoc Committee's broad definition of what a community center could be; request that a needs assessment be conducted using impact fees, review the current status of impact fees, and advance the idea of a partnership with the Franklin Public School District. Superintendent Patz seconded this recommendation. Motion passed.

- V. **Schedule Next Meeting:** TBA (but probably in late August or early September based on recommendation from the Common Council at its August 5th Committee of the Whole meeting).
- VI. **Adjournment:** Randy Ritter motioned and Casper Green seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:20 PM. Motion passed.