

Westport Village Society
Special Closed Board Meeting: Westport Recreation Center Building
December 16, 2017

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:01. The only agenda item was the building currently known as the Westport Rec Center.

Thad began by giving some background. Fort Bragg Unified School District (FBUSD) currently pays the utilities for the entire church property that the Westport Community Rec Center (WCRC) stands on as well as owns the building known currently as the WCRC. FBUSD will stop paying the utilities as of December 1 and will be offering the building for sale or will demolish it if no one wants it.

Mendocino County Recreation and Park District (MCRPD) is interested in keeping rec programs in Westport and is willing to work with the WVS to continue programming, but gives no firm commitment as to how much they are willing to spend.

The superintendent of FBUSD is aware that the WVS may have interest in working to keep the building and has shared the 2017 utility costs with the WVS. Currently the water bill appears to be \$110, though that is less than the local rate.

Regarding the Westport Community Church's (WCC) role in all this, the church does not want to take the building on but might be willing to lease the land it's on to the WVS if the WVS acquires the building. The WCC is not interested in donating the entire property to the WVS. The WVS will not be able to acquire grants to improve or expand current facilities without owning the land the building is on.

Eventual disposal of the building will be expensive. The current estimate from FBUSD is \$15,000, this will likely increase in the future. There would also be costs to disconnecting the utilities and getting a permit for demolition.

Melinda asked about insurance. Fire and liability will be required. Bill estimates the cost at \$1000-\$1500 per year.

Gary clarified the timeline. The school district will stop paying utilities as of December 31st. The building will be offered for sale after June 30.

Steve, who, at the time, also sat on the church board, is in favor of a land transfer to the WVS.

Lesli e-mailed her thoughts to the board, these will be added to the minutes.

Sarah clarified that the WVS can't pay the utilities for the church as they are a religious organization. She also asked if the current programs could exist in the church. Tai Chi could, but yoga would be difficult due to wall access and heating issues.

Bill shared his thoughts. He sees no good way for WVS involvement in preserving this building for community use. He also feels that to have a real Community Center we need community involvement and a compensated director.

Gary feels that, currently, the community doesn't have a facility it can rally behind.

A question was raised as to whether MCRPD would continue to fund programs if we could use the current building as a bridge to a future Community Center. Thad thinks classes could continue with WVS involvement.

The board unanimously agreed that the WVS is not interested in obtaining the building without owning the property that it is on with Director Steve Brigham recusing himself.

Thad volunteered to develop a summary of the WVS position. He will circulate it to the board and, upon approval, present it to the church. The issue will also be mentioned in the Wave in an article about the upcoming Quarterly Board Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.

Director Lesli Langslet's thoughts on the topic. From a 12/15/17 e-mail sent to her fellow directors.

WVS Board Members -

My apologies that I will be unable to attend the meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning.

Thad has asked that I share my thoughts for consideration. I have hesitated to write them out. My thoughts and feelings about the building being our responsibility have fluctuated. I know that there are challenges and opportunities that I have not considered.

Although the ability to maintain the portable building is a huge asset to the community, my initial feelings were strong that we should not take on any responsibility for it, even if it means it will be removed.

The church has indicated that they have no interest in releasing ownership of the property to us. I think that we should renew our search elsewhere for a suitable property or building.

If WVS could arrange a lease for the building, without us being responsible for the disposal, I would favor the arrangement. However, I think we should look deeper at the feasibility and sustainability of the funding. Any funds that are incurred for this should not take away any from our long term goals of providing a community center more suitable for the needs of the community.

Again, I apologize that I will be unable to attend the meeting.

Respectfully,

Lesli Langslet