

Westport Village Society
Special Board Meeting - Decommissioned Westport School
Minutes - June 10, 2014

President Thad Van Bueren called us to order @ 6pm

Attending were Directors: Thad Van Bueren, Steve Brigham, Bill Knapp, Dorine Real, Lois Senger, & Gary Quinton. And guests: Tabitha Korhummel, Bart Anderson, Heidi Friedland, Sally Gregg, Sarah Mathias, K. Rudin, Lean Langaut, Lee Tepper, John Allison, Carolyn Yale, Jeff Saunders, Millie Saunders, Steve Cardullo, George Lancaster, Baile Oakes, Bob Finnell, Dan Maxey, & Frank Maurice.

Thad recapped this issue originating at Westport Village Society's April meeting where the relationships between the Fort Bragg Unified School District (FBUSD), The Westport School Building (WSB) The Mendocino Coast Recreation & Park District (MCRPD), The Westport Community Church (WCC), and the Westport Village Society (WVS) were spelled out. To wit: The WSB is situated on WCC property and is leased by the FBUSD from the WCC. The lease covers the utilities and upkeep of the WSB and the utilities of the WCC. The FBUSD, when the WSB was decommissioned, in turn leased the WSB to the MCRPD which sponsors classes (zumba, body sculpting, tai chi...) for the Community. The FBUSD and the MCRPD are about to renew their 5 year lease. Baile Oakes, a community member, thinks we should acquire the WSB outright for a Community Center (CC) and points out the WSB is a liability to the FBUSD and therefore could be had for the proverbial song. "Who will pay the utilities and upkeep and provide classes?" the naysayers asked. Hence this special meeting to decide whether to attempt to acquire the WSB.

Tabby, who teaches classes here for the MCRPD, said the MCRPD is happy with the arrangement and the Community is invited to use the building as a Community Center.

Baile said the FBUSD has no incentive to spend money on said building.

Bob said we should consider urgency and timing.

Dorine said we should leave the building in the hands of MCRPD but take on the responsibilities of painting and mowing to get used to the day when we have our own Community Center.

At this junction Thad invited the individual Board members to speak:

Gary said we already have a great Community Center with a great director (Tabby) and ownership of the building is a non-issue for him.

Dorine said the WVS is all about a Community Center but keeping the MCRPD and FBUSD as players will allow us a chance to incubate the CC at little cost.

Bill said lets keep the program going and see how the Community responds.

Lois said if we are not at risk of losing the building we can postpone acquisition overtures.

Steve said the community should have a Community building.

Thad said we should work with what we have.

Bill said we should make the Community Center an agenda item. (The Board agreed and Sarah volunteered to head up the associated committee.)

Dorine moved we go with the status quo and let the FBUSD and the MCRPD know of our appreciation. Gary seconded. All voted aye.

We adjourned at 7:30pm.