

VISION FUND CITIZEN COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 18, 2016 - Public Hearing 6-8 p.m.
Council Chambers
Rapid City, South Dakota

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. with the following Committee members present: Heather Forney, Megan Reder-Schopp, George Grassby, Tim Johnson, Mark Massa, Katy Kinnan, Jo Lynn Little Wounded.

The following Committee members were absent: Dawn Connor, and Bob DeMersseman. The following City Staff was present: Mayor's Office Assistant Lindsey Seachris and Communication Coordinator Darrell Shoemaker.

Committee Chairman George Grassby thanked those in attendance and explained the process of the committee. He explained each applicant is provided 10 minutes to present their project followed by a 10 minute q/a period.

Tim Trithart presented on behalf of the **Community Health Care Center of the Black Hills (CHCBH) Mental Health Care Pod** project. Trithart provided the committee with background on programs and services available at CHCBH at a sliding scale cost to the community. Operating as an independent organization, CHCBH is not part of Regional Health, and is on track to serve nearly 44,000 patients in 2016. They do apply for a Federal Grant that allows services to the public at a sliding scale fee. Many patients receiving services are near poverty, lower income, and/or homeless. Some patients have insurance with high deductibles and these individuals are also eligible to receive services at a sliding scale fee. CHCBH is requesting \$523,406 to complete 3,024 square feet of unfinished shell space within its new consolidated health facility in North Rapid City including; electrical, lighting, plumbing, communications, and interior finishing (walls, floors, door, etc.) for a Mental Health Pod. This will allow for expansion and integration of mental health services and primary care at CHCBH to enhance the quality of care and improve patient outcomes. The space will accommodate offices, counseling spaces, and a shared conference room. Trithart explained the tremendous need for mental health care, not only in our community, but countrywide. Access to mental health care services to lower income individuals is a priority with 18% of current patients receiving treatment for mental health issues at CHCBH. A Mental Health Pod will allow for warm transfer and patient follow-up, resulting in better treatment while increasing the likelihood of follow-up care for medication management and counseling. Trithart explained the building was built with the Mental Health Pod space in the floorplan, but left unfinished due to lack of necessary funding.

Forney inquired as to whether or not additional grant funding had been applied for? Trithart explained that Vision Fund had the first attempt, and no other grants are available at this time. Reder-Schopp thanked Trithart bring forward this project and, as a mental health care professional, acknowledged a tremendous need for mental health care services in our community. She inquired if the Mental Health Pod would also provide services for substance abuse? Trithart stated, yes, it is certainly a possibility. Grassby asked what percentage of your patients are children, and Trithard responded roughly 35% are children on Medicaid. In response to Grassby inquiring if this was the last piece to complete CHCCH, Trithard indicated that this was it – the Mental Health Pod. Further, he is presently working with Behavior Management Systems on the dynamics of integrating some of their staff at their facility.

Dave Meltz presented the **Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Flagpole Project**. Meltz briefed on the mission of the DAV and work of this organization within our community, indicating the DAV is a donation based organization, and any money brought into the organization goes right back out to local veterans and families in this community. He stated the flagpole at their current location was taken down in recent years by inclement weather and prompted the Vision Fund application. The project includes a new flagpole, capable of flying 3 flags, and a memorial with benches dedicated to all veterans. The flagpole will be illuminated and visible to the public while secured in a fenced-in yard. Further detailing this project involves moving the pole from its previous location on the back/south side of the building to a permanent location on the NE corner of the facility. Breakdowns of costs were provided, indicating significant private contribution to complete this project from local contractors deducted from total cost and resulting in a requested amount of \$21,000 from Vision Funds. The presentation was concluded by the request of the Committee to get behind this proposal to support the many veterans in our community - indicating there are 12,000 local and 72,000+ veterans statewide.

Massa thanked Meltz for presenting this project and for his service to our Country. Massa asked how soon the flagpole would be constructed if Vision Funds were awarded. Meltz indicated this project would move forward right away is awarded. Forney asked if other funding sources were available? Meltz was not aware of any alternative funding sources available. Grassby inquired as to how big of a facility the DAV operates. Meltz responded that it is a rather small facility near the size of the Council Chambers. Meltz stated the DAV is continually striving to show pride and support here at home of our veterans and having a flag flying at our facility is a big priority to us

The **Rushmore Little League Lighting Project**, proposed by the Rushmore Little League organization, was presented by Jim Bussell. He indicated in the last several years, Rushmore Little League has created a long term strategic plan, identifying critical needs and highest priorities items in order to sustain the facility into the future. This area has seen significant change over the past 50 years, and it is the desire of our organization to update facilities, increase training space and create interconnectedness with the Division of Parks and Recreation. It was decided that the neighborhood improvement project should be elevated in priority due to the unique opportunity to apply for Vision Funds. This project provides additional lighting and will have a much larger impact on the surrounding community through reduction of crimes committed related to vandalism, vagrancy, drugs, prostitution, or other various crimes frequent of this area. The project involves the installation of GenPro light packages to existing fixtures and infrastructure surrounding the facilities. Total Vision Fund amount requested: \$25,000. The fields will offer better lighting quality with minimal impact to neighbors in the area. Rushmore Little League will continue to work with donors and others to accomplish the goals identified.

Forney thanked Bussell for his presentation and inquired as to whether or not additional grants had been applied for at this time? Bussell indicated other grant applications had been submitted, but indicated the other grants pursued were for other 'high priority' projects including updates to the practice area and field improvements. Bussell indicated the Rushmore Little League organization has been working with Community Development. She further inquired as to life span of this project. GenPro representatives Ryan Usera and Todd Houghton, spoke in response, stating there is a 10/yr labor warranty included and lights running 12/7 have an estimated life span of 15-20 years. Bussell clarified that Rushmore Little League would be responsible for powering the lights and any additional costs incurred would be handled through their organization.

Grassby asked Bussell to describe the state of the facility. Bussell invited members to the facility to have a look indicating he felt the baseball field was in fantastic condition and offers an old style baseball feel including sunk-in dugouts. Grassby asked where they plan to install the light fixtures and how this will be set up. Bussell responded that there are 6 60-70' tall poles around the field (in total) as well as other various locations surrounding the field the lights would be installed. The lights fixed to the pole would be installed high enough to deter vandalism. This lighting will have a substantial impact on the vagrancy issues in this area. Forney asked the reasoning was behind the change from solar lighting to high output security lighting from the original application? Bussell provided the reasoning behind this change was due to the better quality of product (high output vs. solar) resulting in significant cost savings to the project, longer life span, as well as lower maintenance. There would also be a solar panel installed on the concessions building providing additional savings. As one of several items identified in the application to curbing vandalism and violence in this area, Massa asked what other prevention methods are currently employed? Bussell described various security measures in place through crime prevention through environmental design in including the street crimes unit, neighborhood clean-up efforts, clearing out trees and brush, to recently installing new fencing.

The **First Nations Sculptor Garden** project was presented by Elizabeth Cook-Lynn on behalf of the First Nations Sculptor Garden organization et al. The First Nations Sculpture Garden will tell the story of the intellectual history and contributions of some of the region's first people. To date, \$260,000 has been raised in support of this project with most funds spent on the molding and bronzing of four life-size cast bronzed statues and interpretive panels of four notable 20th century Sioux Indians: Dr. Charles Eastman, Nicolas Black Elk, Oscar Howe, and Vine Deloria. History of the project was detailed by Cook-Lynn including a briefing on the approval received from Rapid City Council on the site location at Halley Park. First Nations is currently seeking alternative sources and additional grant funds available to complete phase 2 of this project which includes site preparation and mobilization, side walk construction, crosswalk upgrades and landscaping. First Nations Sculptor Garden is presented as an interpretive community art history project.

Cook-Lynn stated purpose of this project is to reclaim history, and to tell the story between white settlers and native tribes. The native community is made up of accomplished people and this represents the 20th century intellectual history of the Sioux Tribe and contributions of our people. Each sculpture stands 5' tall and costs \$37,500. Cook-Lynn elaborated on the importance of the track of land that was selected and further reviewed details of the proposed project. The Board of Directors has collaborated with Mike Stanley of Stanley Design Group for landscape architectural design, native sculptor Marilyn Wounded Head for artistic design, and attorney James Leach for legal assistance. Total estimated cost of the project we are discussing tonight is \$450,000. Grant writing and additional funding sources are being pursued. No staff on salary. Everything they have done is through volunteers. First Nations is seeking Vision Funds in the amount of \$150,000 - \$250,000.

Grassby thanked Cook-Lynn for presenting on behalf of First Nations and commended the work they have accomplished thus far on this important project. He asked if any fencing had been designed in the landscape, or concerns expressed over the high traffic volume in close proximity to the garden area. Cook-Lynn indicated this area was viewed more as a contemplated garden with benches to sit and other rest locations, further stating they do not feel like this will be a tourism destination or traffic would cause any concern as this area will not accommodate dozens and dozens of people. Reder-Schopp asked how First Nations had planned to maintain the Community Gardens. Cook-Lynn referenced the MOU established with the City, stating the City intends to maintain the gardens as they do in all parks. This is good enough. Massa thanked Cook-Lynn stating he believed, culturally, this to be a great idea. He asked if there was going to

be history provided of each person sculpted near the statue. Cook-Lynn indicated the statues will be placed on tall pillars and that they are hoping to get something published.

Chris Norlan and Jacque Harvey presented on behalf of the **Humane Society Remodel** project. Nolan provided an overview of the mission of the Humane Society and five year plan. Detailing structural issues within the building and indicating these issues are likely to cause significant damage down the road. We are requesting funds to complete a comprehensive remodel of our facility for the purpose serving our needs over the next 20-30 years. A remodel is much more cost effective than a new facility. Remodel costs have been estimated at \$1.2m which is the requested amount of Vision Fund allocations. Nolan provided a history of the process and efforts to raise money for their HVAC unit which is failing. \$57,000 has been raised for the new system through fund raising efforts. Nolan indicated the Humane Society has been working hard on spray and neutering services, and they have recently added a mobile van, including a sliding scale fee option for those that cannot afford this service. We work hard to educate the public through our education program, offer improved adoption rates, and better care for the animals in our service. Nolan stated they have an excellent working relationship with the RCPD and Sheriff's Office. You may ask, how we plan to sustain. Many of the proposed upgrades will improve services offered. We will have additional costs and needs, and we are currently anticipating staffing changes, accounting for the fact that we'll need to hire additional staff, and we are in the process of planning for these changes. The HVAC system upgrade will save money in the long run. The Humane society will continue to function at a high level to keep animals in our community safe, working hard to increase partnerships, and educating the community.

Forney thanked Nolan for her presentation and asked if there had been alternative funding sources identified to subsidize requests of the Vision Funds. In other words, would you be able to subsidize funding, as opposed to requesting the entire amount need for this project from the Vision Funds? Nolan indicated they would definitive plans in place prior to applying for additional grant opportunities or alternative funding sources. Grassby inquired as to how many animals are housed in the facility on a daily bases. Harvey responded that presently they have 147 cats, 87 dogs, between 65-70 rabbits, and other animals cared for at any given time range from goats, chickens, geese, and pheasants. Reder-Schopp thanked Nolan and Harvey for their presentation. She asked for a breakdown of the funding request of \$1,200,000 and what process in the planning stage are you at. Nolan indicated that the building would be gutted and reconfigured with a new HVAC System. They have communicated with a design professional and mechanical engineer but have no plans established. The request made is specifically for internal remodel of the facility, indicating this estimate is based upon an architect's estimate of cost of square footage provided in a walk-through. Massa questioned, in light of use of the existing shell, are you looking at other entities to help finance this project? Harney indicated they are not at this time. Forney stated that it sounds as though the \$1.2m is a ballpark figure. What happens if costs come in higher than this estimate? Harvey indicated change is anticipated and needs would be prioritized as the project progressed based upon the flow of the facility keeping the needs of the community in mind.

The **Childhood Development Center**, proposed by the YMCA of Rapid City, was presented by Roger Gallimore. This project is two years in the making. Our organization has been through a strategic planning process and taken into consideration the needs of our community with this project proposal. Demographic studies and surveys indicate a significant need for expanded Early Childhood Education in this community. South Dakota is known for its high ratio of working mothers and fathers in the home for children under 6. The Child Development Center would allow us to expand our capacity for early childhood learning, and care for up to 360 young children annually, and provide early childhood training for up to 72 informal caregivers annually through an on-site laboratory experience. Gallimore discussed logistics of location and indicated the plan

to take down the Y Church Building, remove the historic home south of the main facility, and relocate it onto the Y Church Building property - keeping it within the historic district. A 3-story Child Development Center featuring 11 classrooms, 1,600 sq. ft. indoor play area, an open lobby with secure access to classrooms, and 8,000 sq. ft. of outdoor playground space will be built in this space. The YMCA has launched a major capital campaign and have raised \$3,200,000. This leaves a need of \$4,900,000, for a total project cost of \$8,800,000 including architectural and engineering. Gallimore stated the request of Vision Funds for this project application is \$1,200,000 or 15% of the entire project, or 25% of money left to raise. Strategically this is a challenge balance to go back to our prospects and potential donors to raise additional funds/pledges. Gallimore highlighted the many benefits of early childhood education, and how this project aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan and long term goals of the City with significant impact to the community. Gallimore spoke to the creditability of the YMCA as a financially sound, solid organization with a history of success and achievement in our community.

Forney stated that you mentioned anticipated fundraising to be complete by the end of 2017. When would you anticipate the construction phase to begin? Gallimore indicated they will not move into the next phase of the project until 80% pledged, and will break ground when 100% pledged. Reder-Schopp complemented Gallimore on the challenge campaign idea. She asked if donors had been identified for future contributions. Gallimore indicated not at this time. Grassby inquired as to the plan for increasing costs? Gallimore indicated that pledges and timing is taken into account. This process takes the campaign and creates an urgency for potential donors with time significant. Grassby inquired to Gallimore's definition of infant care and what kind of care are you providing? Gallimore indicated that an infant is 9 months and younger. This is our highest need in the community at present time. Infant care utilizes more resources and space.