

Civic Center Panel Named, Bismarck Facility Visited

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Once it was organized, the Black Hills Civic Center Committee wasted no time getting into high gear. Mayor Jack Allmon called a meeting late Friday of the 17-member advisory committee and Chairman Harold Buckingham announced subcommittee chairmen and their assignments. Saturday, Buckingham and three committee members flew to Bismarck to inspect that city's new Civic Center which opened to the public last September.

Buckingham said the Rapid City delegation spent more than two hours meeting with the architect and manager of the Bismarck center. They told the Rapid City group it is "one of the best investments the city could possibly make."

Buckingham also said the cab driver who drove them from the airport to the Civic Center told them the "whole community is proud of the center. We're glad we have it."

The Bismarck center will seat about 9,000 when seating on the east side is completed. Presently it will seat a maximum of more than 6,500. To date it has cost approximately \$2.5 million for land, construction and equipment. Buckingham said they expect to spend another \$200,000 to complete the facility as originally planned.

Subcommittee chairmen and their functions listed by Buckingham are Mrs. Robert (Barbara) Gunderson, to determine the need for and size of facility; Ron Stephenson, to determine the costs; Gene Taylor, the functions and financial operation.

The first two committees are to study proposed locations.

Mrs. Gunderson's subcommittee was given specific areas to study including: conventions we now are missing, the likelihood of getting them if we had a center large enough and of the type to meet our needs, the annual economic impact on the community, the size center needed to meet only convention needs and what other community services should be included.

It was the consensus of the group that it should be a multi-purpose center, not just for conventions.

Stephenson's subcommittee is to arrive at the amount of money needed to locate and build any of several possible sizes and types of centers. He also is to report back as to the time required to construct the different types.

Taylor's subcommittee is to study the projected financial operation of the completed center. He is to prepare a "giving" effect, cash flow and in-

come statement on the operations of various size and functional centers. He is to include a statement of possible sources of revenue to cover any deficits which might occur. In this area, the committee also is to pre-empt this would be included in the city budget and what the pare calculatins on what extent this would be included in the city budget and what the estimated mill levy would be required to cover any deficit.

The committee also is to figure the dollar cost in taxes per \$1,000 full and true property value.

Buckingham said that Bismarck officials told him the operational losses at their center have been substantially lower than anticipated. They expect the first year's operational costs above gate receipts to be only about \$10,000.

Other committee members are Joyce Swan, Lou Haggerty, Charles Undlin, William Porter, Henry Rose, E. L. Millar, Jeanne J. McLean, Charles Hoffman, Casey Thomas, Ann Johnstone, Vern Johnson, Tom Flack, Helen Duhamel, Victor Hughes, Milo Rypkema, Bernard Roskos, Charles Donnelly and Larry Owen.

The study also is to include consideration and recommendation of the possibility of using the former Black Hills Oldsmobile-Cadillac building at Kansas City and Seventh for a civic center facility or as part of a complex.

The whole committee will meet again on Feb. 13 and 20, and is expected to reach a recommendation at the Feb. 27 meeting.