

NOTICE

City of Evansville
Youth Center Rescheduled Board Meeting
Evansville Youth Center, 209 South First Street
Monday, March 6, 2023, 5:30 pm

Agenda - Revised

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Motion to approve the agenda
4. Motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the January 9, 2023 board meeting and approve as printed
5. Civility reminder
6. Citizen Appearances other than agenda items listed
7. Youth Center Operations – (place holder)
8. New Business
 - a. Spring Kickball event
 - i. Discussion and possible motion to approve parameters of event
 1. Financial goals
 2. Number of teams
 3. Date
 4. Concessions
 - b. 2023 Youth Center board meeting dates
 - c. 4th of July discussion
 - d. Feasibility study
9. Old business
 - a. Vision/Values Discussion
 - i. Possible motion to approve Vision/Values statement
10. Next Meeting Date: March 27, 2023, 5:30 pm
11. Motion to Adjourn

Ben Corridon, Evansville Youth Center Chair

Evansville Youth Center

Regular Meeting

Youth Center, 209 S First St., Evansville, WI 53536

Monday, January 9th, 2023 5:30 pm

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 5:31pm

2. Roll Call

Members		Others Present
Butch Beedle	Present	Interim Director Angie Olsen City Administrator Jason Sergeant
Aldersperson Ben Corridon	Present	
Abraham Rodriguez	Presnet	
Kenneth Updike	Present	
Bill Lathrop	Present	
Andy Dewar	Absent	
Open Seat		

- 3. **Motion to Approve the Agenda**, by Beedle, seconded by Lathrop, approved unanimously.
- 4. **Motion to waive the reading of the minutes** of the October 24th, 2022 meeting and approve as printed, by Beedle, seconded by Updike, approved unanimously, no changes.
- 5. **Civility reminder** –Corridon reminded the group to conduct civil discussion
- 6. **Citizen Appearances** – None
- 7. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. **New Member, Abraham Rodriguez**

Mr. Abraham Rodriguez offered a brief introduction. He has lived in Evansville for six years. He is a design engineer by trade. He has recently joined Blue Scope.

b. Vision / Values Discussion

Discussed the origins of the values statements. Agreed that the Vision and Mission statement are complete and have been approved by the Common Council.

The Values statements originated in a desire to provide parents and future leaders some guidance and continuity. We had assembled a list of terms, but had never turned them into statements. Andy was going to write up something, but is no longer with the Board.

Agreed to revisit the project.

c. Website Update

Discussed updating the City's website regarding the Youth Center. At his writing, it still has the Youth Center closed. Need to Update the blurb for how the Youth Center is going so far.

Olsen - I didn't know what you were looking for.

Corridon - Can we get an updated blurb and any photos. Would be nice for staff photos as well

The group examined an existing brochure – the data and pictures are dated but the descriptions are still accurate.

Corridon – We need new blurb, new pictures.

Sergeant - It's complicated – we have an interim Director who does not yet have the authority to do PR, nor access to the website. We need to get the information there - and ramp Facebook down. We need to get someone in City Hall to manage our Facebook - there are five Facebook pages.

Council wants the website to be the home for information.

Angie can't do that if she doesn't have access to the website.

First goal - is minimal accurate information on the City's site.

d. Liability Insurance for fundraising event

Discussed liability insurance for fieldhouse rental - dodgeball tourney - trying to do a spring event. Dodgeball vs kickball. Corridon wants to know what the City would do regarding insurance for the event.

Sergeant said, the Ins Co said - as long as the City is directing - coverage is good. If it's a City sponsored event, we're covered.

Beedle - what is the Rental fee? Corridon will investigate and will report back

Beedle - if we are going to do it - we better decide a date.

Corridon - was looking at the last week of March or first weekend of April. End of March is last week of Spring break.

e. Backyard Issues

Olsen reported one of the neighbors came over and was not happy about the backyard. The gaga ball is good - but they are kids and the ball goes flying, frequently into her yard. It's not a lot of space - but we need to use it. She works from home and the kids are loud.

We were getting 35-45 kids a day - we needed some of them to be outside. If we can brainstorm?

Corridon – A couple trees separate the yards - can we put in a net? To keep the ball in our yard.

Beedle - does the city have any old nets, or the schools?

Sergeant - someone must have an old net

Olsen - I'll email Kendall

8. Old Business**a. Front Door Update**

Sergeant – The new door has been ordered and paid for – just waiting for it to come in. It will be about a 10 week wait. It will be a glass door, similar to the existing, but it will work and both doors will swing out.

b. New Building Update

Sergeant and Corridon discussed earlier in the day.

Corridon – the way I see it, there is one of two ways to go. We can put it in the Capital Improvement Plan – with the soonest placeholder of 2028. Can we push it up from there, but that would require council consideration and horse trading

The other way – he prefers – is public/private partnership. Wants to reach out to Evansville Underground Music – to see if we can work with them - possibly also School Board - partnership for funding. This could be the first foray of the Youth and Family commission.

Sergeant – the challenge has been the talk of a new youth center forever. It was never in the capital plan. Goal is to push that as early as you can. Initial thought is to build a new facility. We could fundraise for it - and if the funding is there three years early - great - we can do the building then.

Discussion has always been - we'll lease to AWARE and lease to BASE. The more you add in, the bigger and more complex, and the more difficult to achieve, and control is lost to others.

City already offers services to youth - the pool, the library, sports (baseball), - Fundamental conceptual question – is what we provide distinctly different than what the school provides. What are we bringing to the partnership.

Sergeant – The City has to get its act together with youth and recreation services. I don't think there is any wise version of the future where the city goes by itself. We need to bring others into the discussion.

This year we had two goals

Goal 1 - getting it back open.

Goal 2 - pack it with kids

Accomplished.

Next step - what do we need.

What do we want to provide, what is the most efficient way to do it. This group has to partner with somebody to answer those questions.

Mr. Updike - if there was a new building - where would it be. (Probably somewhere else)

If this was a multi-use building - there was a way to get a building like that paid for with an 80% federal grant. If that type of funding existed – it would it push the ball down the road.

We could figure out what was needed.

Sergeant – When Congressman Pocan was here, we asked for an earmark. He didn't say no, he didn't say yes. He referenced the Boys Club. He didn't mention a federal grant.

Lathrop – There are other efforts to create underway, including creating a Family and Youth Commission

Sergeant - We could be a part of that - or maybe a separate thing.

Maybe the council ask is - ask for money for a needs analysis. What do we need to build, and how big would it be. That would give us the chance to discuss what services to offer kids.

The closer to the middle school the better. Better for attendance, reduced wandering. Difficult for the City to add a building in district property.

We want to hire someone - you want an independent third party. Trying to move on it this year would be too soon. There needs to be some pre-discussion – along with vision and values.

Likely \$10-15k for a study. Not currently enough in the budget - but if we could get it done next year. And, the RFP could include ways to pay.

Sergeant - ad hoc discussion with kids and previous the board indicated that the further away from the Middle School, the less likely kids would attend.

Olsen - once they start sports - that changes things. The kids become seasonal.

In 2028 - we will need new PD, EMS, DPW offices. We could be part of that.

We still have the question - how much space does the youth center need? We don't even have an order of magnitude of cost.

Sergeant - if we had all the department heads in one building - the city would be that much better for it.

c. Fundraising – Dodgeball vs Kickball discussion

Discussed Dodgeball vs kickball. Olsen reported the kids are leaning more toward kickball. Logistically - kickball easier to raise money. Teams composed of kids and adults. It would be possible to get a lot more people.

With dodgeball - adults will be too competitive - and someone will get hurt. Kids prefer kickball.

With kickball - we have a longer timeline – and will probably want to be outside. Then we don't have to rent anything. Perhaps at Leonard-Leota Park - Jays field

We can set up several fields in the area.

Perhaps the park store could be our food vendor.

Butch - might be a better format for recognition of the Youth Center's work and mission.

The group discussed and agreed the following remain questions:

- Next steps - what is our fundraising goal
- What can we charge - possible pricing
- What is our total - how do we break it up
- Create connections with the Youth Center if possible.
- Research Youth Center donations

9. Next Meeting Date – Monday, January 23rd, 5:30 pm at the Youth Center.
10. Beedle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lathrop, approved unanimously - meeting adjourned.