

City of Santa Rosa  
Board of Community Services Special Meeting  
Minutes – August 13, 2008

1. Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairperson Lawson at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa, California.
2. Roll Call  
Present: Brown, Costa, Richardson, Lawson; Schwinn arrived at 4:12 p.m.  
Absent: Bañuelos, Martell
3. Public comments on items not on this agenda  
Lea Barron-Thomas, 306 Boyce Street, commented on the need to have Board agendas posted in a more timely manner.
4. Approval of Agenda  
There were no changes to the agenda and it was adopted without objection.
5. Scheduled Items
  - 5.1 DeTurk Round Barn Design Review  
Richardson noted that staff is here today to request the Board reconsider its decision and direction regarding the design development of the DeTurk Round Barn. Since the last Board meeting steps have been taken to address neighborhood concerns and Cultural Heritage Board comments. Amenities needed to operate the facility have been redesigned inside the barn. Staff has also provided proposed operational procedures that are similar to other community centers.  
  
Mark Adams, TLCD Architecture, recapped the proposed revised design of the DeTurk Round Barn, with no inclusion of an outbuilding. Amenities, such as restrooms and space for catering needs, equipment storage and audio/visual equipment, would be included in the barn's interior.  
  
Richardson discussed proposed operating procedures, which included parking, restrooms, compliance with the City's sound ordinance, supervision requirements, occupancy, alcohol usage and limitations and hours of operation. Richardson noted the cost of the full operation of the building is a priority; otherwise use of the facility will be very limited.  
  
Board questions and comments included whether improvements would be made only to the interior, ability to store tables and chairs in the facility, accessibility of the interior restrooms from the outside of the building, and the effect on the state grant by moving outbuilding amenities to the inside of the facility.  
  
Only interior improvements would be made so as to preserve the building's historic fabric as much as possible. Some reinforcement of the mezzanine floor will need to be done. Reinforcing and insulating the walls to attenuate noise is not a possibility at this time due to the need to preserve the building's historic value. Staff is hopeful the tables and chairs could be stored within the interior of the barn. There would be no exterior access to the proposed interior restrooms.  
  
The proposed interior restrooms would be able to handle an event of 100 occupants; events of up to 150 participants could be scheduled, provided 1 or 2 portable restrooms are brought on site. Amplified sound would be allowed inside the building providing it does not exceed the decibel level allowed in the City's sound ordinance. Less revenue may be generated but the department would not lose money on the events that would be held. Concern over limiting the use of this building, since there are only 2 round barns in California,

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

was shared. The parking issue still needs to be resolved with more follow up and research. Metered parking is not currently scheduled for this location and there is not enough room to have diagonal parking on both sides of the street.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Stan Gow, 322 Boyce Street, Lea Barron-Thomas, 306 Boyce Street, and Allen Thomas, 306 Boyce Street, shared the following concerns:

- The impact events would have on the neighborhood park as well as creating a traffic hazard
- Amplified sound
- Parking
- Prohibiting use of alcohol
- Facility uses
- Park site improvements

The Board inquired about the current timeline of the project. It is hoped the project will be able to move forward at a good pace unless new revisions are needed.

Other Board comments and suggestions included: Encouraging staff to only calendar small events first followed by meaningful communication with the neighborhood concerning scheduled uses of the facility. It is hoped the building would not be used 7 days a week and that occupancy would be limited. It was also suggested a neighborhood liaison could work with staff concerning operating needs and/or a hotline phone number could be provided to report event concerns and problems. Alcohol would only be served in the building's interior since City ordinance prohibits alcohol in neighborhood parks. It was noted that the neighbors appear to like the direction in which this process is headed.

Other Board comments included the need to look forward to 20 – 30 years from now and not limit this historic facility for uses such as theater in the round or weddings. The round barn is a community asset and the interior openness contributes to its integrity. It is important to protect the assets of the future as well as take care of the neighborhood needs. Operational procedures will need to be worked out between staff and an engaged neighborhood. It is hoped future event opportunities will be presented and that neighbors could embrace them. It is important to move this process forward and attend to the limits of what the Board can agree on now. A few Board members expressed disappointment concerning having to limit the restrictive uses of this facility.

Richardson commented that the proposed operating procedures will be flexible. Staff will be sensitive to the needs of the neighbors, aware of economic development opportunities and will keep communication open with the neighborhood.

Costa made a motion to move forward with the revised design and have staff work out the proposed structure of management and operational practices for this facility. Schwinn seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

6. Chairperson's and Board Members Announcements and Reports

Lawson shared copies of a letter he is drafting to Assemblywoman Noreen Evans and State Senator Pat Wiggins regarding the possible raiding of local funds by the state.

The Gateway Park dedication was well done and well attended.

The department's Volunteer Event will be held on Thursday, Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Finley Center.

The department's golf tournament, which benefits the department's scholarship fund, will be held on Friday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. Board members were encouraged to participate. Raffle tickets for a wide screen television are also available.

The ArtStart Auction will be held on Sat., Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available for purchase.

Tickets are still available for the Lamplight Tours will be held Fri. and Sat., Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

7. Written Communications

7.1 The July issue of the Cemeterian newsletter.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27, 2008 at 4pm at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa, California.

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Craig Lawson, Board Chair

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Yvonne Earle, Recording Secretary