

Sandy Mush Community Center

Minutes

September 21, 2021

Attending: Amanda Barnes, Jade Barnes, Kevin Campbell, Gary Crowell, Sheri Crowell, Steve Duckett, Kurt Eckel, Diana Gates, Christopher Jayne, Bruce Larson, Don Myers, Ilsa Myers, Amy McMahan Surret, Frank Ramirez, Betsy Weinschel, Keith Wells, Lisa Beth White, Angela Whitney, Susan Wilson. *Nineteen people attended.*

The meeting was called to order by President Christopher Jayne at 6:03 pm. He welcomed the attendees and noted that the meeting would be devoted to the site Master Plan. The meeting will have four parts: Master Plan Background (Bruce Larson); Master Plan Presentation (Christopher Jayne); discussion of the Master Plan (all); and action on the Master Plan.

Master Plan Background. Bruce Larson presented. He discussed the process by which the site Master Plan was arrived at. The process got underway on 3/18/2019 when the Center asked for \$3,000 to develop a site plan in the 2020 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant. Subsequently, input was gathered, and five draft Master Plans were developed. The last Master Plan being distributed by Landscape Architect Mary Weber on 9/13/2021. A list of signposts of the process follows these Minutes; dates highlighted in green indicate Master Plan drawings.

Master Plan Presentation. Christopher presented. He discussed the various elements of a 10-slide PowerPoint. Here is a summary:

- Slide 1. Title
- Slide 2. Sandy Mush Community Center By-Laws: Name and Purpose
- Slide 3. Assessed Needs from a Survey of the Outdoor Recreation Team
- Slide 4. Outdoor Rec Team Survey: Top 5 Requests
- Slide 5. Aerial View of SMCC
- Slide 6. Topographic Survey of SMCC
- Slide 7. Site Master Plan: Color.
- Slide 8. Site Master Plan: Black and White
- Slide 9. View of Gym Floor Entrance
- Slide 10. Composite of Slides 7, 8, and 9

The Master Plan provides a long-range view that doesn't design us into a box. Accessibility considerations were very important in its design. It provides for accessibility to the gym through parking at the back of the building, accessibility to the pavilion, and accessibility to playground. Siting the pavilion was tricky given its size and topography; accessibility considerations require modest grades. The PowerPoint can be viewed in a separate file.

Discussion. Open discussion yielded three questions:

1. What do we do next?
2. What process do we follow with Buncombe County?
3. What's the plan for the septic system and field?

Regarding 3, Christopher suggested that the Center work with a Buncombe County sanitation engineer to restructure the septic field. This would take place in the broader context of the overall Master Plan. As was noted, caution is advisable.

Regarding 2, the Center will have multiple interactions with various departments of Buncombe County as the plan goes forward. We will, of course, proceed as required.

Regarding 1, Kurt Eckel suggested that the Steering Team declare the next step of the process. This would include identifying a group to manage the work on the Master Plan. That group could help firm-up plans, as well as get cost estimates and input from professionals.

Kevin Campbell said the Master Plan looks fantastic. Thanks to all!

Action. It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the site Master Plan as submitted.

Christopher thanked everyone for their help in developing the Master Plan.

Comments were then made. Amy McMahan Surrett asked if it was okay to share the Master Plan with the community, e.g., on Facebook. (Yes.) She also suggested that placing a large-form copy of the Master Plan could be placed outside the building.

Lisa Beth White shared some thoughts about the importance of fundraising for the project and how it might be done.

The meeting was adjourned by Christopher at 7:07 pm.

Master Plan Background

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- 3/18/19** Minutes. SMCC asked for \$3,000 to develop a site plan in its 2020 Strategic Partnership Grant.
- 3/19/20** Board approves the hiring of Cipar, Ingle, Anders & Associates to develop a topographical survey.
- 9/21/20** Minutes. Landscape architect Mary Weber selected to develop a site plan.
- 11/20/20** Minutes. Christopher Jayne met with Mary Weber to learn about her input process.
- 12/30/20** Kurt Eckel asks for email input from key teams: Events, Food Pantry, Outdoor Recreation, Youth.
- 1/11/21** Mary Weber phone call with Jean B, Frank B, Brandee B, Christopher J, John L, Bruce L.
- 1/27/21** Mary Weber distributes Preliminary Site Plan.
- 3/10/21** Christopher leads in-person meeting on site to discuss the Preliminary Site Plan with Jean B, Frank B, Brandee B, Kurt E, John L, Bruce L.
- 5/20/21** Mary Weber distributes Master Plan.
- 5/21/21** Mary Weber distributes Master Plan Alternate.
- 6/16/21** Bruce Larson distributes work-to-date summary.
- 7/30/21** Mary Weber distributes Master Plan Alternate.
- 9/13/21** Mary Weber distributes Sandy Mush Master Plan.