

Special Called Meeting

Town of Cooleemee

July 29, 2024 6:00PM

Minutes

Open Session

Mayor Smith opened the meeting at 6:00 PM welcoming guests in attendance.

Stating we are here to once are listen to suggestions and get cost related to the Bathhouse at the Pool. Noting this is the 7th of such meetings.

T. Bivins spoke first hoping to see possibly a pool museum walk through going to the Community Center, perhaps computers set up in the partitions provided by the old showers in the ladies' side, or perhaps even a site for Home Schooled Children to be able to go to work in groups.

R. Bivins passed around pictures hoping maybe the Town would consider making a community shelter/picnic area giving the building a face lift that would match that of the proposed community center, adding a breeze way and fire pit(s) Stating he could find all the funds the Town needs to make this happen.

KC Smith added questions concerning the Library being some part of that building, she visions solar lights and shade trees around the area but would like to see the building stay not in its current condition but perhaps fixed up in its natural state to keep the historical look and feel.

Kyle Schrader spoke on NC preservations could aid in funding some projects, asked about cost to demo verses cost to renovate, or build new. Asked a few questions regarding the pool, the mayor did step in and suggest the pool was not a matter of topic as it is not on the agenda and that demo project has been awarded already. Mr. Schrader again stated he could have money raised for repurposing the building he hated to historical buildings touched and thinks it is best as it sits as long as deemed safe.

J. Chandler asked if the board had indeed fully prepared to place the Community Center building at the Pool site? A few items still had to be prepared before the Town could 100% confirm that would be the location. But now that was the thought as it gave the best location for the time being so not to be land locked in potential further growth of the Community Center. Questions if the County Inspections could come down and see if the Building is sound and what is needed to be up to code and safe.

S. Corriher brought up several issues and needs of the Town that really needs to be addressed before a building that has sat untouched for 21 years should be considered for a large renovation that will cost greatly to get to a point of use for most of the points and ideas brought up today. Including crumbling streets, deteriorating buildings such as cook shack and shelter and old Police Dept. If we are not careful the old PD will be next on a demo list, and it is older and more historical than a bathhouse in his eyes. Folks including the Town still to this day use all these areas for birthday parties, events, and gatherings.

Commissioner Almond questions will the Architect would perform duties coming in for the Community Center on giving advice and suggestion on the Bathhouse. Mayor Smith said if not we could gather info on paying and go that route if necessary.

Commissioner Reavis questions that during the past 6 Community Input session for the Community Center ideas he has heard great ideas to be implemented into the Community Center but now tonight during the 7th meeting he is hearing the same ideas but now these folks are asking that these items be considered for the bathhouse 'just to save the bathhouse', and feels adding all this to the bathhouse now may take away the true need and outlook for the Community Center other than having a small building with chairs and call it a Community Center.

The thought and hopes are the Architect will aid the Town in a scope of ideas if we can implement the bathhouse with the Community Center.

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to accept the RFQ response from Fuller Architect for the Community Center Project for design and overseeing construction on the project.

Seconded by Commissioner Almond; motion carried (4-0)

Mayor, Jeff Smith

Clerk, Steven Corriher