

COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 14, 1999
REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman J. Lee Warren, Jr.
Commissioner Billy R. King
Commissioner J. Breeden Blackwell
Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Karen Musgrave, Staff Attorney
Larry Philpott, Director, Parks & Recreation Department
Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Warren.

1. Approval of Minutes: June 10, 1999

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to approve.
SECOND: Commissioner King
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. Presentation on Coastal Plain Baseball League

Mr. Pete Bock, President of the Coastal Plain Baseball League, spoke to the Committee about his League and how he thinks the League and Fayetteville/Cumberland County could benefit from their presence here.

His league is in their 4th year of existence. They currently have 8 teams playing in Asheboro, Nags Head, Durham, Thomasville, Edenton, Wilmington, Florence and Wilson, North Carolina.

The ballplayers are underclassmen from colleges all over the United States. They play from May through August. They play with wooden bats and are sanctioned by the NCAA and Major League Baseball. The players stay with a host family in the area. Some of them opt to get part-time jobs in the area during the summer in addition to playing ball. These players tend to be the top of the line players from the colleges. Many of them go on to play professional ball. In fact, they are scouted heavily while playing in the local leagues. These young men are paid no money, they play ball because they love it, hoping for a career in baseball someday.

The ballplayers are involved in the communities in which they live, putting on clinics and participating in community activities.

Mr. Bock said he believed this league is what we need at this time, unless we are willing to spend \$20 million on a new facility for a minor league team. He said he would like for

his organization to help us move in that direction at some point in time. He noted our current facility will accommodate the needs of the league, except some office space will have to be provided. Office space can be provided utilizing the existing building. In addition, he noted some painting would make the park look better.

In response to a question about future expansions, Mr. Bock said the league will expand into Gastonia this year, Hampton, Virginia, next year, hopefully Fayetteville in 2001 and Spartanburg in 2001. In addition, they are looking at New Bern and Tarboro sometime down the road. Mr. Bock ranked our facility in the top three of the places they currently have a team.

Cost of tickets to a game would range from \$3.00 - \$5.00. In response to a question about attendance, Mr. Bock stated that in Edenton with a population of 5,200, they average just under 1100 attendance at their games. Wilson averaged 1900 this year and Wilmington averaged just under 1700 this year. He noted they are continuing to upgrade the facility in Wilmington.

Commissioner King inquired as to how the team is put together. Mr. Bock stated coaches are hired (from the collegiate level) and they put together the team. Each team has 20 players.

Commissioner King asked about the caliber of play. Mr. Bock noted it is as good or perhaps a little better than Class A ball.

Larry Philpott noted that the press box at our facility needs some work.

Mr. Strassenburg said that the next step may be to authorize staff to work with Mr. Bock to come up with a more definitive offer for the Facilities Committee to review.

Commissioner King asked if there are other options on the table as far as a minor league team coming to Fayetteville. Mr. Strassenburg said he has spoken to the President of the South Atlantic League who has expressed some interest, but has not followed up with the County. Mr. Strassenburg said that if we are going to look at a minor league team, the County will have to upgrade the stadium to meet their standards.

Mr. Bock stated the financial condition of the owners of this league is good. He noted that he has a long background in minor league sports and has run a number of minor league baseball teams, including the Durham Bulls. Gerald Petitt, a partner in this league, is the former Chairman of Choice Hotels, a national chain that includes Comfort Inns, Comfort Suites, Quality Inns, and Quality Suites. He has also worked for American Express in several capacities, including as their Director of Marketing in New York.

Mr. Bock said he thought Fayetteville would be a great addition to the Coastal Plain League. It is a win, win situation.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to instruct the County Manager to work with Mr. Bock in developing a specific proposal for the Facilities Committee to review.

SECOND: Commissioner King

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE
JUNE 10, 1999

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman J. Lee Warren, Jr.
Commissioner Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Billy R. King
OTHERS: Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager
James Martin, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Assistant County Manager
Neil Yarborough, County Attorney
Marsha Fogle, Clerk

1. Approval of Minutes: March 11, 1999

MOTION: Commissioner King moved to approve.
SECOND: Commissioner Blackwell
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. Update on the County's 10 Year Recreation Service Plan

Larry Philpott, Director, Parks and Recreation Department reviewed the 10 year service plan improvements (attached to these minutes).

Commissioner King asked if there is land available at the Lake Rim Park to accommodate a swimming pool. Mr. Philpott indicated they could probably find space for a pool; however it would not be an olympic size pool. At this point there are no plans to add a pool.

Commissioner King also inquired as to recreational facilities in the Spring Lake area. It was noted Spring Lake provides those recreational activities and receives about \$40,000 from the county from the recreation tax.

3. Discussion concerning a joint venture with the Cumberland County Schools at the new Stoney Point Elementary School

Mr. Philpott said he would like to do a project at this new school similar to the one with the Hook Loop Road school. The County will participate in the cost to construct a "recreation center". Mr. Philpott noted he is not sure he has the money to do the whole project which would cost around \$600,000. If he can find the money he would like to complete every aspect of the project as the school is being built. The Board of Education will of course have to approve this joint venture. Mr. Philpott noted that this partnership between the school system and Recreation Department is a good thing.

MOTION: Commissioner King moved that we authorize Mr. Philpott to move forward with the project, and authorize him to do the complete project if funds are available.

SECOND: Commissioner Blackwell

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

4. Discussion concerning the windows at the new courthouse.

Mr. Tom Cooney, Staff Engineer, told the Committee that the replacement of the windows on the north side of the courthouse, first floor, will affect how the building will look. He noted that the Board of Commissioners has approved the replacement and he just wanted to make sure there were no surprises when the project is complete. The new windows will be double paned insulated glass and will appear tinted, unlike the other windows in the Courthouse.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved to authorize Mr. Cooney to move on with the replacement of the windows with the clear double paned insulated glass.

SECOND: Commissioner King

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

5. Other Matters of Concern

A. Smoking Court at the Courthouse

The Committee discussed the possibility of using a mesh type wire over the current facility. This would cost about \$4,000 and would not enhance the appearance of the Courthouse.

The Committee discussed locking the door leading from the snack shop into the smoking area and providing access to the smoking area from the outside of the building. In addition, it was suggested that some tables could be put outside the smoking area for use by the patrons and employees in the building. The cameras would be removed and there would be no need for deputy supervision in the smoking area.

MOTION: Commissioner Blackwell moved that the outside existing entrance be used for ingress and egress to the smoking area, that the entrance from the snack shop be locked, that cameras be removed and utilized somewhere else, and that we move some of the picnic tables to the outside of the enclosed smoking area, per Mr. Cliff Spiller's suggestion, at relatively no additional cost for the county.

SECOND: Chairman Warren

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:55AM