NEWBERRY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

MINUTES - CIVIC HUB STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY JULY 22, 2020 @ 6 P.M.

OPENING GREETING

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Present – Paul Deel, Karen Gray, Victoria Paulsen, Mike Sullivan, Brian Fisher, Jack Unger. Absent – Fire Department Representative

MEETING RECORDING

This meeting will be recorded. You are also free to make your own recording. Contact Committee Chair Jack Unger if you would like to obtain a recording of the meeting.

1. INPUT, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from members of the public.

1. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 4, 2020 MEETING –

NOTE: The screen-sharing of the Minutes was blurry and could not be seen by the meeting participants. Jack read the Minutes. Motion by Bryan Fisher, Second by Victoria Paulsen to approve the Minutes. The Minutes were approved.

NOTE: Robert Birkman had joined the meeting previously. *Three additional members of the public joined the meeting at this time: John Griswold, Cindy Charleton and Margie Roberts.* ***Question:*** *Are we trying to build another playground?* ***Answer****: We are trying to build a civic hub which would include a park with playground but the civic hub would also include a Fire Department and city offices.* ***Question:*** *Will the money from the solar project legal settlement be used to build the civic hub?* ***Answer:*** *We don’t know at this time. The CSD Board has not discussed that issue yet. Building a civic hub would require much more money than the money from the solar project legal settlement.*

1. UPDATE ON POSSIBLE CIVIC HUB PROPERTY PURCHASE BY CSD

Vickie sent a certified letter to the property owners asking if they would be willing to discuss a sale.

1. REPORT, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPLYING FOR A CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS GRANT TO BUILD THE CIVIC HUB PARK

**Vickie** summarized the State Park Grant program. Because of our low population level surrounding our proposed park, it is not clear at this time if we would qualify for a grant. Preparing a grant application requires a very large amount of study and work. Preparing a grant also requires many community meetings. “It’s a huge project but doable”.

**Paul:** “It’s a massive project. Previous applicants will be re-applying so the competition may be intense. There is a 20% retainer that is only reimbursed three months after the project is completed so financing will be a challenge unless a contractor is willing to wait six months to be paid. Maybe we should NOT pursue this grant but instead focus on obtaining the desired civic hub property.

**Vickie:** Given our low population we may have a hard time competing with proposals from areas with higher population.

**Mike:** This grant appears to be about building green space in an urban environment where there is a high population within a half-mile radius of any proposed park.

**Jack:** We need to find out if the population issue will eliminate us or allow us to continue. We need to ask the Parks representative all of the above questions before we give up and write this opportunity off.

1. BEGIN PREPARATION OF A WRITTEN CIVIC HUB STRATEGIC PLAN

We need to start drafting a written Civic Hub Strategic Plan (SP). A SP is designed (among other goals) to enable the continuation of a project (the Civic Hub, in this case) over the long term, even if (or when) after an election when the Directors on the CSD Board change. **Question:** Does anyone here have a template to guide us in writing a Strategic Plan? **Answer:** Karen volunteered to look at a couple of different types of plans and give them to us for review so we can then proceed down the road of writing the SP.

1. OLD BUSINESS - None
2. NEW BUSINESS – Look for the comet.

THE NEXT MEETING (via ZOOM) WILL BE IN TWO WEEKS on Tuesday, August 4th at 6 PM.

ADJOURNMENT