Activity 4 – The City Council Meeting

Facilitator: Questions from the City Council can be very effective if they evolve on their own out of previous responses. Questions on this list can be used as prompts if help is needed to get the discussion going. It is not unusual for the same questions to be repeated in every committee and also brought up by members of the public/audience at any meeting.

Questions from the City Council

To the Hikers/Park group:

- How have you involved citizens in the decisions about this project?
  - Have you made specific attempts to obtain feedback from the neighborhood people living near the proposed project?
  - Have you taken any steps to obtain input from the youth in the community about the park project, particularly the neighborhoods nearest the proposed project site?
- Have you approached the landowner regarding the sale of the property?
- Have you spoken to the appropriate people about obtaining the necessary permits and approvals if the project is approved?
- Have you spoken to the public works department about the plans so that they can access the facility for trash/waste/recyclable removal?
- Have you spoken to the police, fire, and emergency medical service departments about any potential concerns they may have with the project?
- Do you have any idea about how this project will impact the city services such as water and sewer services?
- Will the park require utilities? (i.e. water/plumbing for bathroom facilities, irrigation, water fountains, etc. and/or electricity for lighting in bathrooms, parking lot, etc.)
- How will park users get to the park? Where will they park their cars, motorcycles, bikes, RVs, etc.?
- Will traffic flow need to be adjusted for easy access to the park?
- Will you be developing a path system through the park? How will the path be constructed and how will it be maintained?
- What environmental damage might occur in the development and use of the park? (trees/brush cut down, leaking oil from parked cars, litter, pet waste, etc.)
- What hazards to wildlife will development and use of the park pose? (loss of animal habitats and nesting areas, disruption of natural predator/prey cycle, etc.)
- What dangers to humans must be considered in the development of the park? (predators that have lost habitats, dangerous terrain, evacuation in an emergency, etc.)
- Will the city have to hire additional personnel to operate/maintain the park?
- Will there be a fee to use the park? If so, how will the fees be collected?
- Have you sought funding from other charitable organizations to supplement the money for the project?
- Are you expecting that the city will provide the necessary construction services, or will you seek outside contractors to perform the required labor?
To the Youth Coalition/Recreation Center group:

- Has the school district been approached regarding a purchase price for the building?
- The school building may have historical significance for the community, has this been considered during your planning?
- How have you involved citizens in the decisions about this project?
  - Have you made specific attempts to obtain feedback from the neighborhood people living near the proposed project?
  - Have you taken any steps to obtain input from the youth in the community about the park project?
- Do you have any idea about how this project will impact the city services such as water and sewer services?
- Have you spoken to the public works department about the plans so that they can access the facility for trash/waste/recyclable removal?
- Have you spoken to the police, fire, and emergency medical service departments about any potential concerns they may have with the project?
- What modifications need to be done to the interior of the building to make it usable as a recreation center? (asbestos and lead paint abatement, electrical updates (grounded outlets), internet, wall removal, kitchen, bathroom and plumbing updates, painting, etc.)
- What exterior modifications need to be done (re-paving parking lot, landscaping, lighting, etc.)? Will there be any environmental impacts during the course of that work? Are you planning to hire a contractor to oversee the work?
- Will traffic flow need to be adjusted to accommodate the busy parking lot?
- Will there be fees for using the facility?
- Who will staff the building, and what are the anticipated human resource costs?
- Is it possible that this building be rented out to bring in revenue, or at minimum, to sustain its operations?
- Are the coalition organizations willing or able to contribute funding to the rehab of the building?
- Will the youth/community center be open to use by any group or individuals, whether they are from the city or not?
- Are there other adjacent municipalities that might be interested in co-developing this project with us to serve a broader audience and increase the facility’s use?
- Have you sought funding from other charitable organizations to augment the money for the project?
- If the youth center ceases to be functional after some years for any reason, what will happen to the property?
- The school building grounds are used annually by different groups for fundraising activities.
  - If this project moves forward will you continue to allow these groups to use the grounds for those events?
  - Have you spoken to representatives of those groups?