



Twin Falls Recreation Center Ad Hoc Committee Minutes

Monday, April 14, 2025, 12:00 PM

*****Special Meeting*****

Council Chambers

203 Main Avenue East Twin Falls, Idaho

Members: Bryan Wright, Eric Smallwood, Jan Mittlieder, Chris Scholes, Angela Heider, Kyli Gough, Cherie Vollmer

1) Call Meeting to Order/Confirmation of Quorum

Wendy Davis called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM

A quorum was present.

Members Present: *Vollmer, Mittlieder, Smallwood, Wright, Scholes, Gough*

Staff Present: *Davis, Humble, Ebersole*

2) General Public Input

none

3) Items of Consideration

- a) Request to approve the November 19, 2024, Recreation Center Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION: Jan Mittlieder moved to approve the meeting minutes from November 19, 2024. Chris Scholes seconded the motion.

Roll call vote showed all members present voted. Approved 4 to 0 to 1.

- b) A request to make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the recreation center feasibility Report.

Wendy Davis stated the discussion with Council was conducted twice in Executive Session. An agreement with private partner on a property did not work out for the Recreation Center. The City Council was given site evaluations on four (4) properties; Two (2) owned by the city, two (2) would have to be purchased. Wendy met with contractor, BRS, for another construction estimate and it came in at over \$60,000,000. City Council does not want to pursue a bond for that amount at this time.

Next Step - bring Feasibility study update to City Council, having a formal declaration made of not wanting to pursue this project at this time.

- Committee Member Smallwood asked if the city could purchase a property to sit on for future use.
- Wendy Davis stated not at this time. If a bond was passed, the city could purchase and move forward. City Council is not interested at this time.
- Deputy City Manager Humble shared some points made with City Council. The property City Council was interested in was already a city property. City Council is uncomfortable asking citizens for Bond money at this time. Staff can check in with City

Council in the future for an appropriate time for the project. City Council believes that \$62,000,000 is too much to put on citizens at this time.

- Wendy Davis stated she reviewed notes from last conversation with contractor. She stated it will be brought up annually to City Council for correct timing. The committee has done the work needed for the project, and answered questions needed to be answered. The hurdle is the financial burden to build a facility. She recognized the hard work from the committee.
- Committee Member Mittlieder asked about adding additional programming in existing facilities, such as schools, pool, etc. That way there will be people established in programs when time for the facility to be built.
- Deputy City Manager Humble shared there are private groups wanting to build private recreational facilities and the city could use those to host tournaments. The facilities would not be operated by the city, but can be used for events. He stated the city pool can be used. He discussed legislation for a local option sales tax that is not opportunity for cities at this time, as it did not pass through the legislature.

Brian Wright joined the meeting.

- Committee Member Wright stated his sense of gratitude for the committee and the work done for the community. He stated he is optimistic good will come of this process.

Brian Wright left the meeting.

- Committee Member Scholes expressed the need for a facility is bigger now than when the process started. There is not enough space for what needs to be housed. He stated if the subject is brought back, he would like to be part of it.
- Council Member Vollmer gave the Council's perspective on their decision-making. She discussed that the increase to taxes is too much for City Council to be able to approve at this time.
- Committee Member Scholes stated the biggest mistake would be doing it wrong.
- Wendy Davis shared why she wasn't willing to change the plans and change tone of it as to not want to do it wrong.
- Deputy City Manager Humble stated the price tag of a positive bond vote would be a 25 yr term is 14% tax increase to the city tax rate. He discussed the option of creating a recreation district as a voter-initiated process. If approved, it would provide a new taxing authority for that purpose solely. He thinks the local option sales tax is a better option.
- Committee Member Smallwood agrees with sales tax option. He stated that there are some URA districts - when closed - could bring in property tax at that time, that could be enough to cover a bond payment.
- Deputy City Manager Humble stated the city stills need to be a bond approval, and discussed the differences on the new fire station funding.
- Committee Member Mittlieder stated there are possibilities with partnerships in the future, and Chobani's looking at community projects and stepping up on other issues, as an example of what could be done.

- Wendy Davis stated she always felt this would work out from the beginning, and is disappointed that it hasn't worked as planned. She discussed options for future. She discussed the process for disbanding the committee and how to move forward.
- Deputy City Manager Humbel suggested committee members should come to the City Council meeting when the feasibility study is brought back to them.
- Committee Member Smallwood shared the need for a recreation center and the public survey results and how City Council is disconnected from the community. He disagrees a tax increase would not have been welcomed.
- Council Member Vollmer stated she fought hard for the center. She suggested that the next survey let citizens know the amount of a tax increase.
- Committee Member Scholes believes if the Recreation Center was in use today, the community would not feel it is a waste.
- Committee Member Gough stated she is impressed by this group, still believes in the project and need in Twin Falls. She hopes there is a pursuit in the future.

4) Upcoming Meetings

none

5) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Kelli Ebersole
City Planner