

FACILITIES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 21, 1996, 7:30AM
SPECIAL MEETING

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Chairman Billy R. King
Commissioner Marshall Faircloth
Commissioner Rollin Shaw

OTHERS:

Cliff Strassenburg, County Manager
James Martin, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Asst. County Manager
Neil Yarborough, County Attorney
Marsha Fogle, Clerk
Judge Beth Keever
Judge Coy Brewer
Dan MacMillan, Architect
Heidi Schweizer, Architect

This Special Meeting was called to discuss and consider courthouse renovation plans.

Commissioner Shaw requested the Committee add an item to the agenda:

Discussion of the Cedar Creek School Project

The Committee consented to add the item to the agenda noting no action would be taken by the Committee.

1. Discussion/Consideration of Courthouse Renovation Plans

The architects presented their plans for a smoking section off of the snack bar on the lower level of the courthouse. The section will consist of an area that will have a mesh-type enclosure with a roof over a section of the area so it could be used in inclement weather.

The Committee reviewed some of the changes made by the architects based on information at the last meeting. Judge Brewer and Keever responded to questions concerning areas in their purview. Dan MacMillan is to check with Clerk of Court, Tommy Griffin, to discuss possible storage area for his records. In addition, Mr. MacMillan will look into an area currently designated "state auditor" area and perhaps redesignate it in a different way.

Judge Brewer stated he would like to see the county build a large courtroom on the fourth floor to be used for trials that have more than one or two defendants. This courtroom would also be used for administrative hearings. He indicated it was not the most critical thing but he felt it would be helpful to have a large courtroom. He also noted the importance of adding wiring for videotaping trials as there may come a time when court reporters are no longer used to record proceedings.

Mr. MacMillan will make inquiries as noted above and report back to the Committee.

The County Manager noted that he along with Cliff Spiller and someone from the legal department would be drawing up specification and a bid package for the operation of the Snack Bar, once the current occupant retires. This bid package will come to the Facilities Committee for review.

2. Discussion Cedar Creek School Property

Commissioner Shaw asked the committee members if the project for the Cedar Creek School Property is a dead issue. It was indicated that perhaps Commissioner Evans would be open to the project if the group home was deleted. Commissioner Faircloth said he did not think the project was dead; however, he could not support it at the Cedar Creek School site because of the feedback he received from those people who live close to the site, i.e., housing development and a church. He noted some of their concerns: (1) increased traffic; (2) teenagers running wild. It was noted that HUD monies (\$250,000) are available to help with the project, but a decision must be made fairly soon. Commissioner Shaw said she was inclined to bring this item back before the Board to see if the project would be acceptable at this location if the group home were deleted from the plans, or if the Board would like to direct staff to look for another site. It was noted there were only 13 people who signed the survey in opposition to everything. Ms. Pilgrim noted that when Community Development held hearings in the area the majority of the people were supportive of a satellite service facility to house such activities as Agriculture Extension, Senior Citizens Center, Sheriff's Department satellite office, Health Department services, Mental Health services and Social Services Department services.

Following some discussion, Commissioner Shaw indicated she would put this item back on the next agenda for consideration by the Board. The Manager noted the importance of some direction from the Board of Commissioners as to whether to scrap the project, look for another site, etc.

The next regular meeting of the Facilities Committee is scheduled for March 14. However, members of this committee will be out of town on that date. The meeting was rescheduled for March 12, 1996, 7:30AM.

MEETING ADJOURNED