

Anderson Township (AT) / Forest Hills School District (FHSD) / Anderson Park District (APD) / Anderson Township Economic Development Committee (EDC)

August 12, 2020 Discussion Summary:

Participants (by Phone or Video): Vicky Earhart (AT), Steve Sievers (AT), Sarah Donovan (AT), Scot Prebles (FHSD), Josh Gerth (AT), Ken Kushner (APD), John Deeds (EDC), Julie Bissinger (APD), Jeff Cowan (EDC)

Mr. Sievers welcomed everyone and thanked the group for continuing this conversation from our fourth meeting in late June. Mr. Sievers hoped that everyone has had a chance to review the summaries.

Mr. Sievers asked if there are any updates from the school district. Mr. Prebles stated that they will be using the Turpin pool for the Turpin, Anderson and Nagel swim and dive team, if permitted by Heath District guidelines. He stated that depending on the curriculum adjustments related to COVID-19, they will make decisions to use to the Turpin pool for PE classes for high school students.

Mr. Deeds asked if the renovations to the Turpin pool will be enough for using during this upcoming year. Mr. Prebles stated yes, but that the Turpin pool is not far behind the Anderson pool condition. However, he stated that we do think it will be enough for the time being.

Mr. Prebles asked if it would be worth looking at the Anderson High School site for the pool for the community. He stated that the parking lot would be cleared during the swim season so that could be used. He stated that looking at the reality of pricing, he stated that there is an opportunity to use TIF dollars, work with the Township and utilize space that we currently have for such a use

Mr. Sievers asked if he was thinking the current pool location or an addition. Mr. Prebles replied that he thinks for \$300,000 the pool could be brought up to competition standards, without diving. The current pool does not meet dive standards as is. He stated that as far as the structure is concerned, you could add a foundation to expand for people to congregate. As for the outbuilding, he stated that he's not sure about the future needs of the school district. He noted that they are seeing shared facilities across the region and that maybe this is an opportunity to use what we have.

Mr. Sievers asked if Mr. Kushner had anything to add, noting that the Park District's 2013 and 2015 surveys have been shared with the group. Mr. Kushner replied that he didn't have anything.

Mr. Deeds asked what the takeaways for the Park District are for this survey. Mr. Kushner replied that larger indoor recreation was noted as a strong need; however, that was also the focus during the time of the survey. He noted that they are still looking for opportunities, in order to accommodate needs of the community.

Mr. Sievers noted that Josh had sent out a link about a new private Eastgate facility and its size, and funding investment. He also noted that Ms. Donovan did some digging into the NKU community recreation program, as well as another facility in Northern Kentucky.

Mr. Sievers stated that staff has started working on the bigger picture assessment that will hope to summarize what we have discussed. He stated that their work focused more on the sites that provided an opportunity to introduce a "component" of the large vision of a combined facility. However, such a

vision would entail a much greater effort and study, as well as would have limited locations for implementation.

Ms. Bissinger stated that she believes that we are at a crossroads of making a decision on creating one big facility with a pool for the schools and community recreation. She stated that this seems to be much harder than achieving what the Park District needs. She stated that it seems to her, if we have any chance of making something happen, that it feels like we need to separate them.

Mr. Sievers stated that many of the sites are on school property, helping us all to realize that we are all under the same umbrella and if the greater opportunity arises an aspect could be introduced. However, it does show the school district the potential of several sites.

Mr. Prebles replied that the School District has a ton going on with the start of the school year coming up, with how kids and teachers will need to handle daily life with the current health crisis. He stressed that the School District and Board of Education is fully on board with providing whatever they can for students and the community. He stated that all options are available with this Board and they do not see just the students; they see the community as a whole.

Mr. Sievers agreed and appreciated this collaboration and larger vision, and it helps to know as we move forward what the constraints and opportunities are in the future. Mr. Sievers asked if there is a “next step (s)” for this conversation and what that may be.

Mr. Deeds thanked staff for putting the assessment together but concurred that we really don’t know what the new normal will be, and when such facilities will open. He stated that it feels like moving forward, it might just be keeping our antennas up and looking for unique opportunities that come up.

Ms. Earhart stated that we could continue to look for sites and pause for the time being while we keep this in the back of our mind. Continuing to do research, while still acknowledging what the School District is going through right now, seems appropriate. She added that looking at the cost to maintain this future facility, not just construction cost, but having additional costs ready and in place.

Ms. Bissinger stated that she agreed with Ms. Earhart, that we at least need to wait until after COVID-19, then begin the conversation about what type of facility we want to proceed with.

Mr. Sievers added that a lot of great information went into these discussions that we probably wouldn’t have had the opportunity for back in April. He noted that he planned to address this during the September Economic Development Committee to see if they’d like to continue to work with this outside of our larger group, for the time being. Regardless, the five meetings, and notes/research that went with these has been, and ultimately will be, very helpful to such an effort.