

Administrative Services Committee Meeting

Douglas County, Nebraska

Thursday, August 2, 2018

The meeting convened at 1:00 P.M. at LC-4 Legislative Chambers, Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is located along the north wall of the room. A notice of the meeting was published in the July 27, 2018, issue of *The Daily Record*. County Commissioner Jim Cavanaugh chaired the committee. Others present at the meeting included Commissioner Clare Duda; Dave Peterson, Public Properties; David Sleeter, 9-1-1; John Ewing and Tim Cavanaugh, County Treasurer's Office; John Friend, Clerk of the District Court; Patrick Bloomingdale, Marcos San Martin, Diane Carlson, and Catherine Hall, Administration; Brad Alexander, Youth Center; Tom Riley, Public Defender; Mark Foxall and Amber Redmond, Corrections; Kent Holm, Environmental Services; Paul Johnson, Emergency Management; Janee Pannkuk, Amber Parker and Karla Dush, Operation Youth Success; Doug Johnson, District Court; Constance Mierendorf, John P Mueller, Christina Randall, David Corbin, Samantha Chavez, Maria Fernandez, Brian Smith, Charles Gifford, Patrick R McDonald, Laura Shiffermiller, Christine Henningsen, Catherine Cook, Larry Weiss, Madeline Bew, Jerrad Alexander, Stephan T Kline, Kathy Bigsby-Moore, Joshua Michels, Chuck Morten, Jim McGee, Bill Messenger, Jayson Rayas, Catherine Rivier, Tim Rouse, Norma L LeClerc, Mary Jo Barbush-Weiss, Precious McKesson, Greg Sechser, Christine Jurgens, Terry White, Matthew Cronin, Tyler Wilson, Lydia Marchello, Mike Carroll, Karen Duda, Alex Lichtas, Bridget Bumgardner, Larry Storer, Sharon Martin, Dominique Morgan, David J Carrig, Andrew Prystai, Chris Burbach, Carrie Murphy, Dave Fullan, John Leclerc, Marty Hosking, James Hubbard, Kate Farrell, Carole Zacek, Matt Wettengel, Adrian Ferguson, and Kim Ferguson; and Kim Bollow, Sheri Larsen, and Dan Esch, County Clerk/Comptroller's Office.

A video recording of the meeting is available on the Douglas County Website:

<http://commissioners.douglascounty-ne.gov/board-meetings/videos>.

Time markers for when each topic/item occurs during the video are in parentheses.

Introduction (0:00 to 7:00)

Commissioner Cavanaugh gave an introduction: Douglas County staff, Douglas County Board considerations, property overviews, Open Meetings Act reminder, copies of agenda and hand-outs (reference to Clerk/Comptroller website); current and alternative proposals to be discussed. This is the third meeting on current subject. Commissioner Cavanaugh summarized the previous first and second meetings and relayed a follow-up meeting will be August 15th at 2 PM, including the needs of Douglas County Juvenile Court; judges are expected to speak. Today will be Douglas County Public Property overview.

1. Douglas County Juvenile Court space needs (7:00 to 26:00)

Dave Peterson, Project Coordinator, Douglas County Public Properties: addressed current and proposed square footage. He relayed Jerry Leahy, Director of Public Properties, would be in attendance but is currently closing on property purchased from Omaha Housing Authority (OHA). Mr. Peterson reviewed

square footage of current properties including Douglas County Attorney, Public Defender, Probation, Juvenile Assessment Center, Juvenile Court, and Youth Center. (see Attachment A: Existing Square Footage)

John Friend, Clerk of the District Court, proposed questions regarding offices and courtroom space.

Commissioner Cavanaugh explained columns (see Attachment A), anticipating 20% growth in future square footage needs; referred to current conference rooms and windows. He requested square footage cost of West Maple Campus (Fitzgerald Home) from Mr. Peterson at future meeting. He referred to HDR Chinn Study as an example of refurbishment, rather than new construction. Mr. Peterson reviewed existing square footage of two buildings (see Attachment B: DC Owned Facilities Square Footages). Commissioner Cavanaugh reviewed DOTComm's current space in regards to space that Juvenile Court currently occupies. Commissioner Duda added concern for adequate space and future needs.

2. Juvenile Justice Center Strategic Planning (27:00 to 1:07:00)

Constance Mierendorf, citizen: explained overhead document, 'Juvenile Justice Space Needs' and preliminary proposal (see Attachments C-E: first and second maps), including square footage needed and available, possible ways to utilize space for attorneys and courts, skywalk, parking.

Judge Pat McDermott, Retired, 5th Judicial District: provided his work-experience, then his concerns for family-friendly and family-centered court rooms; secured meeting rooms and safe places for families to not be exposed to aggressors (because of domestic violence concerns). He relayed trauma as a main driver of juvenile misbehavior and the need for kid-friendly spaces; suggested to consult with the American Academy of Pediatricians. Judge McDermott reminded of other judges and the original designers of the current Juvenile Court, and suggested this is an opportunity to build-in ways to make these cases go better, quicker, safer. He also suggested to not move current facility, but maybe remodel. Poverty & parking downtown is a barrier for the citizens, and the convenience of judges and lawyers should not be a concern.

Tim Rouse, citizen: feels like this project is a done deal and that he doesn't have adequate information; agrees with Judge McDermott to not move current Juvenile Justice campus; doesn't want to put kids downtown in a new building. Mr. Rouse suggested to include Judge McDermott on any deciding committee, along with Project Harmony people. He wants more care with his tax dollars.

David Corbin, Chair of Nebraska Sierra Club: concerned about tearing down beautiful buildings in relation to landfills; Sierra Club doesn't favor the new proposal, especially with eminent domain; is concerned about the cost to build a parking garage; wants future transportation needs and changes considered.

Christine Henningsen, Director of Nebraska Youth Advocates: wants to keep needs of families and children at fore front, not to break-up in piecemeal fashion; referred to Chinn study, wants co-locations for families to access services all in one place. She relayed the current facility isn't in line with best practices; has difficulties, but campus facility is important.

Dominique Morgan, National Director of Black and Pink: wants more support for youth and families, especially people of color; wants less focus on square footage; concerned about process. He relayed

current staff are not adequately trained; best use of Inclusive Communities; doesn't want sub-par work at a new building.

Larry Storer, citizen: concerned about who is making decisions, best practices, community partners, foundations, hiring outside of state consultants; referred to previous handout of disparity; monies for outside foundations and state partners.

Kathy Bigsby-Moore, citizen: acknowledged need for more Juvenile Court space, significant need for improvement; current Youth Center has deficiencies and benefits; wants more emphasis on the care and public input.

Tyler Wilson, citizen: referred to Chinn study page 91, pros and cons of keeping Juvenile Center where it is; referred to dates & speed of project; tax dollars spent should have tax payers' vote. If construction is slated for September, he wants it on November vote. Concerned about incarceration length, spoke about benefits of teleconferencing.

Commissioner Cavanaugh reviewed AAA and AA Bonding Authority differences, credit ratings, and interest rate concerns.

Marty Hosking, citizen: concerned about historic buildings being seized; children's needs, values, ad-hoc planning, and live-work-play.

3. Public Property update (1:07:00 to 1:14:00)

Dave Peterson, Project Coordinator, Douglas County Public Properties: He relayed Phase 2 is starting in September, including roofing, exterior, brick replacement. 1st mod scheduled for October (see Attachment F: DC Corrections Center Update). Timing is an issue since at capacity. West Campus update: existing structure getting refurbished (see Attachment G: West Campus Update).

John Ewing, Douglas County Treasurer: shared excitement for the West Campus project, Treasurer's Office is contributing; will save citizen dollars, hope for technical updates in the future to serve citizens.

4. Other business: none.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.