

DOUGLAS COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER FORUM

DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Thursday, May 9, 2019

The forum convened at 6:00 PM in Room 110 of Building 10 at Metropolitan Community College – Fort Campus, 5300 N. 30th St., Omaha, NE 68111. The Open Meetings Act was present in the room. A notice of the meeting was published in the April 29, 2019 edition of *The Daily Record*, as well as in the April 30, 2019 and May 2, 2019 editions of *The Daily Record*, and simultaneously transmitted to all members of the Douglas County Board. Those present at the beginning of the meeting included Commissioners Mary Ann Borgeson, Mike Boyle, Clare Duda, P.J. Morgan, and Chris Rodgers. In addition to the citizens in attendance, others present at the meeting included John Christensen, University of Nebraska-Omaha/Omaha-Douglas Public Building Commission; Diane Carlson, Douglas County Administration; Bruce Carpenter, HDR; Don Mohlman, Burlington Capital; and Kim Bollow, Douglas 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 or brackets).

The attachment referenced in these minutes is on file with the Douglas County Clerk and available at <https://www.douglascountyclerk.org/county-board-records/justice-center>.

(0:01 – 1:06) Meeting had not convened yet.

(1:07 - 2:56) Commissioner Rodgers convened the meeting and gave an introduction, and mentioned upcoming forums on DMC (Disproportionate Minority Contact).

(2:57 - 3:44) Commissioner Rodgers went over the guiding principles of the project (see the 2nd page of ***Attachment A – Douglas County Justice Center _ HDR Architecture _ 05.19***).

(3:45 - 14:34) Commissioner Rodgers reviewed the programs and policies initiated to transform the juvenile justice system (see the 3rd page of ***Attachment A***).

(14:36 - 33:12) Bruce Carpenter reviewed the PowerPoint Presentation (***Attachment A***).

- [14:39 - 16:00] Mentioned how the facility will tie together the programs and policies Commissioner Rodgers reviewed, also talked about how the facility should help make things more efficient;
- [16:02 - 19:34] Provided the project scope - see the 4th page of ***Attachment A***;
- [19:35 - 21:15] Reviewed project amenities - see the 5th page of ***Attachment A***;
- [21:15 - 22:05] Reviewed overhead diagram of proposed Justice Center site - see the 6th page of ***Attachment A***;

- [22:06 - 22:34] Reviewed a stacking diagram of the proposed Justice Center site (shows what will be located on each floor) - see the 7th page of **Attachment A**;
- [22:35 - 23:55] Reviewed images of what the Justice Center buildings would look like from different street-level views - see the 8th - 10th pages of **Attachment A**;
- [23:56 - 26:44] Reviewed images of what the Youth Center would look like from the inside and on the outdoor area located on the roof - see the 11th - 13th pages of **Attachment A**;
- [26:45 - 29:06] Discussed Hennepin County, MN and Ramsey County, MN, and what they have done with their juvenile justice system and youth detention centers - see the 14th - 15th pages of **Attachment A**;
- [29:06 - 30:40] Reviewed the Project Control Budget Status - see the 16th page of **Attachment A**;
- [30:41 - 33:09] Reviewed the total net benefits or savings for a new downtown facility for 20 years (all in 2019 dollars) - see the 17th page of **Attachment A**; and

(33:15 - 34:27) Commissioner Rodgers addressed the audience again.

- [33:20 - 34:13] Talked about JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) and Douglas County efforts; and
- [34:14 - 34:27] Opened up the forum for questions.

Some of the citizens names could be misspelled due to the Clerk's Office being unable to confirm name spellings with all of the speakers.

(34:30 - 41:52) A citizen named Paul made comments and asked questions. Commissioner Rodgers, Mr. Carpenter, Commissioner Borgeson, and Commissioner Boyle responded.

- [34:43 - 38:00] Talked about the State of Kansas and its efforts to eliminate juvenile detention, referenced an article from the Pew Charitable Trust, and the reduction in out-of-home placements in Kansas; and
- [38:00 - 41:52] Asked about home-based services and out-of-home placements.

(41:53 - 43:15) Commissioner Boyle spoke about the treatment of violations of probation.

(43:16 - 48:00) Commissioner Boyle relayed that he receives a lot of e-mails about why the County is not remodeling the Youth Center on 42nd Street.

- {44:27 - 45:09} Commissioner Rodgers said 42nd Street is not possible because you can't get collocation, and addressed other issues related to it including costs and parking.
- {45:10 - 46:28} Commissioner Rodgers addressed the proposed number of beds.
- {46:29 - 48:00} Commissioner Boyle talked about some of the comments he gets from the public, including the green space near the 42nd Street location and how a detention facility doesn't hit its capacity due to individuals needing to be separated from other individuals.

(48:04 - 57:33) Apoorva Sharma made comments and asked questions.

- {48:14 - 48:25} Relayed that she was happy to hear about restorative justice and addressing mental health; and

- {48:28 - 57:33} Asked about the placement of the facility and asked if there have there been alternatives to this plan. Mr. Carpenter, Commissioner Boyle, Commissioner Rodgers, and Commissioner Duda responded.
 - [53:54 - 57:33] Commissioner Boyle, Commissioner Rodgers, and Commissioner Duda spoke about collocation and 42nd Street.

(57:34 - 1:05:04) Tyler Wilson made comments and asked questions.

- {58:00 - 58:21} Spoke about his concerns regarding issues related to the Nebraska Jail Standards Board;
- {58:22 - 59:38} Spoke about transportation of youth from 42nd Street to the Hall of Justice. Commissioners Borgeson, Morgan, Duda, and Rodgers responded;
- {59:39 - 1:00:22} Talked about the need for more courthouse space and about transparency;
- {1:00:23 - 1:02:26} Asked about Hennepin County, MN, and if the County is building two locations. Commissioner Rodgers and Mr. Carpenter responded;
- {1:02:26 - 1:05:04} Asked what the County Board is going to do to address problems youth are having at home. Commissioners Rodgers and Borgeson responded.

(1:05:06 - 1:11:56) Carl Tyler spoke about multiple topics including some history of Metropolitan Community College Fort Omaha campus, the need for more community involvement in this process, his efforts to make sure youth don't make it to detention, and that he's happy the plans include windows and a recreation area for the youth in the proposed facility. Commissioner Rodgers responded.

(1:11:57 - 1:17:54) Eric Burgin spoke.

- {1:11:59 - 1:12:10} Spoke about why he's in favor of the proposed location in downtown Omaha;
- {1:12:10 - 1:15:11} Asked questions of Mr. Wilson regarding the costs of an alternative and the current set-up of the 42nd Street Youth Center. Commissioners Rodgers and Morgan also responded;
- {1:15:12 - 1:17:06} Addressed some of the comments made by Mr. Wilson earlier in the meeting. Mr. Wilson responded; and
- {1:17:07 - 1:17:34} Again expressed his support for the proposed project. Mr. Wilson responded.
- {1:17:34 - 1:17:54} Commissioner Rodgers and Commissioner Boyle addressed some of the topics discussed during Mr. Burgin's time on the microphone.

(1:17:56 - 1:21:10) Commissioner Boyle spoke about a community forum he went to at Clair Memorial United Methodist. Commissioner Rodgers responded.

(1:21:11 - 1:21:46) Joe Cota spoke about why he is in favor of the proposal for the downtown Omaha location of the Justice Center.

(1:21:48 - 1:23:01) Commissioner Rodgers spoke about building being a part of the programming.

(1:23:03 - 1:25:40) Commissioner Morgan made some comments, including usage of terminology and how it's about doing the right thing for the future of the youth.

(1:25:41 - 1:28:34) Commissioner Rodgers made comments, including the conversations regarding additional Juvenile Court judges and the accessibility of public meetings.

(1:28:36 - 1:31:28) Mr. Tyler made comments including about community organization and preparation.

(1:31:28 - 131:41) Commissioner Rodgers gave closing remarks.

The forum ended at 7:30 PM.