

Town of Montville Parks & Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Agenda for Wednesday, January 14, 2015
6:00 p.m. – Fair Oaks Community Center

1. Call to order

Chairman Scott LaVallie called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Joseph Berardy, Nancy Delacruz, Scott LaVallie, Kerri Lawton, Gilbert Maffeo (6:07 p.m.), Karen Perkins, Kristin Ventresca, and Derek Wainwright. Absent were Commissioner Eileen Cicchese and Town Council Liaison Laura Tanner. Also present were Parks & Recreation Director Peter Bushway and Public Works Director Don Bourdeau.

3. Adjustments to the agenda — *none*

4. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the agenda with a three-minute limit — *none*

5. New Business

a. Discussion and development of a plan for the maintenance and overall improvement of the Fair Oaks Community Center

A floor plan of the building was distributed and the proposed distribution of rooms was stated as follows:

Rooms 101 and 103:	Community-Use Rooms – to be utilized by Youth Services, M-F, until 6:00 p.m. and Open to the Public thereafter
Room 107:	Youth Services Office
Room 108, 109, 110:	Youth Services
Room 111:	Non-Profit Tag Sale Room
Room 106:	First Aid Room – is the only air-conditioned room in the facility and is combined with Room 107
Room 104:	Open for Use – though the DARE Office has been cleared out, it is currently inaccessible without permission from the Police Department
Room 105:	Police Office

The space, which Youth Services is requesting, closely coincides with their current space (approximately 6,000 square feet). With the use of both rooms 101 and 103, the question of the need for four classrooms was questioned and the possibility of giving preference to Youth Services when reserving a room(s) and having some of those rooms open to the public after 6:00 p.m. They plan to utilize the additional room as a Game Room and Homework/Computer Room for the students, both of which will need to be locked.

Public Works Director Bourdeau stated that an electrician has evaluated the building for any necessary electrical work and IT Director Bill O'Neill has also placed funds in his budget to accommodate any necessary wiring for the computers in preparation for Youth Services.

Chairman LaVallie felt that the classrooms should be completely renovated and funds should be utilized for a more adequate, useful and permanent home for Youth Services. It is believed that there STEAP Grant applications are pending for the renovations of the building.

The necessity of a security system for the facility to protect the Youth Center's property once it is open to the public was introduced. The building, but not the individual rooms, is currently alarmed. In addition, the cleaning and maintenance of the building was discussed.

The inmates, who are currently working on painting the Town Hall, will be working on painting the facility. It was agreed to have the entrance and hallways painted as a temporary solution. The complete renovation of the facility will require asbestos abatement, which would be costly. As long as the asbestos is not disturbed, there is no issue.

Commissioner Ventresca, who spent many hours researching the issue, available grants, and ways to drum up support, located a number of resources that the Commission can utilize, but prior to doing so, a decision will need to be made as to which direction they are planning to take.

Razing the building would, most likely, be faced with public opposition due to the funds that have already been invested in renovating the building. The possibility of maintaining the area where the renovations have occurred and razing the remainder was discussed.

The question of what, if any, authority the Parks & Recreation Department has over the facility and the need to determine that authority prior to any future discussions taking place was raised. Chairman LaVallie will finalize and send a letter he has drafted to Councilor Tanner requesting her support in requesting the Town Council to vote to have the facility officially designated as a P&R facility. While the Department currently handles the scheduling of the rooms/building and handled the administration of a \$200,000.00 Grant in 2011, the facility has yet to be officially designated as a P&R facility.

The possibility of opening up the four rooms located at the end of the building (Rooms 113, 114, 115, and 116) into one large community room was also explored. Should there be asbestos in that portion of the structure, it would be possible to abate that section only. PW Director Bourdeau suggested hiring a professional to review the current facility, discuss what they would like to do, and investigate their options. Whatever is decided, it may be necessary to locate a temporary home for the facility's current activities.

Commissioner Ventresca clarified that, based on the proposed plan, a total of eight (8) rooms would be locked and closed to the public: Rooms 108, 110, 109, 111, which are

currently locked, plus the four (4) proposed rooms for Youth Services. There are a total of ten (10) rooms and scheduling would become an issue for the approximately 15 groups who currently utilize the facility defeating the purpose of a Community Center. As such, rooms will not be designated as a room for that particular purpose. Both the current weight and dance rooms agreed to utilize the rooms on the condition that they may need to relocate in the future.

The limitation of available rooms would negatively affect the Department's ability to effectively conduct their summer camp. Youth Services also conducts a summer program. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of establishing a permanent agreement with the Board of Education to utilize the high school for their future summer camps.

Commissioner Lawton exited the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

The water for the facility is city water and potable. Other necessary projects to the facility include the abandonment of the current, defunct well on the premises by a certified well driller.

Chairman LaVallie will finalize and send the letter to Councilor Tanner regarding the possibility of making a motion on the next Town Council Agenda to designate Fair Oaks as a Parks & Recreation facility. In addition, the item will be placed on the regular meeting agenda should the Commissioners have any additional input on the issue and the painting of the entryway and hallways will continue as scheduled.

6. Remarks from the Public - none
7. Remarks from the Commissioners - none
8. Remarks from Town Council Liaison, Laura Tanner - not present
9. Adjournment
Motion made by Commissioner Perkins, seconded by Commissioner Maffeo, to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville