

TERM OF COMMISSION: February Session of the January Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Roger B. Wilson Boone County Government Center
Commission Chambers

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Kenneth M. Pearson
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller
District II Commissioner Skip Elkin
Deputy County Clerk Kristina Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Commission

Alan Jennings, Carie Copeland, and Dean Berry were present on behalf of this item.

1. Columbia Youth Basketball Association

Alan Jennings stated he lived at 3809 Ashford Ct in Columbia MO and he is the President of CYBA. Mr. Jennings stated a number of CYBA's Board Members are also present that will be presenting some things on this exciting project. Mr. Jennings stated he appreciated the Commission for allowing the CYBA to come and present on this item. CYBA is partners with the City of Columbia, the Columbia Public Schools, and the Columbia Catholic Schools currently have 1,000 fourth through twelfth grade students playing recreational basketball in the CYBA league. As the years have gone by the resources and the ability to provide games and practices to an ever increasing group of Boone County kids have been stretched to the limit, and quite frankly our wall is about to burst. Mr. Jennings stated the CYBA feels it is time to take some of the stress of the schools and build a multiuse recreational facility to house our league, as well as many other youth and adult programs. This will include term events and other regional events that will surely have an economic impact to the region. Taking care of the physical health of Boone County kids should always be the number one priority in the years ahead and CYBA is willing to spearhead this project and get the facility built. Mr. Jennings stated CYBA will be kicking off a \$1.5 million dollar campaign in the weeks ahead and hope the residents and businesses of Boone County will be behind this very important new facility. Mr. Jennings stated he would like to introduce Dean Berry, the founded of CYBA for some history of the league.

Mr. Berry stated CYBA started in 1992 with 50 fourth graders which are five fourth grade teams. The next year this was expanded to fourth and fifth grade and grew to 23 teams, 10 fourth grade boys, 10 fifth grade boys, and 3 girls' teams. During this time the teams were using facilities at Columbia College. The following year CYBA joined with Columbia Parks and Recreation and the organization grew to 720 kids who are 72 teams made up of fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. At this time the kids were using the schools to play games and have practice. Since then CYBA has expanded all the way up through high school and there is about 1,000 kids every year. Some things have not changed from the beginning, CYBA have always provided scholarships for

anyone who needs it. Mr. Berry stated they have never kept league scores and the only awards they give are for sportsmanship. Facilities have always been CYBA's biggest obstacle. There are more opportunities for kids with regards to basketball programs, which CYBA is excited about but all of those have pressed us for space. CYBA has stopped doing preseason and postseason tournaments several years ago and this year CYBA has had to stop the preseason jamboree because there is no space to do it. The whole purpose of CYBA is to serve kids, no one gets paid and everyone is a volunteer. We appreciate the opportunity to put a building at the Fairgrounds and increase the County's traffic in that area. With 1000 kids in the program who play games out there every Saturday there would be 1000 kids plus parents at the Fairgrounds. This would make it more of a place that people are used to going to instead of something out of the way.

Commissioner Miller clarified if 1000 kids can play on four courts?

Mr. Berry stated 1000 kids are 100 teams. Four courts for twelve hours are 48 games. Mr. Berry stated he would like to introduce our boys director and the person who has pushed this project more than anyone else Carrie Copland.

Ms. Copland stated she would discuss what CYBA is proposing to build out at the Fairgrounds. The project plan shows four basketball courts at 50 feet by 80 feet which is comparable to the middle school courts. In addition there are concessions, restrooms, offices, and utility space within the building. The outside of the building would be comparable to the other structures at the Fairgrounds. The CYBA feels the Boone County Fairgrounds are an ideal location to put this facility because there is already baseball fields and there are plans for some other fields, and this additional of an indoor facility only makes sense in order to increase the volume of traffic. In addition this fits into the County's master plan for this area because an indoor facility is something that the County has been considering. There is no doubt that this community is in need of this facility. There is a huge need for gym space and CYBA is looking forward to an agreement with Boone County in order to make this a reality. CYBA is about to kick off a two year fund raising campaign with a goal of \$1.5 million dollars. To date CYBA has already raise \$100,000.00 in donations, so there is a start to this campaign. CYBA has hired Patti Demarco to spearhead the campaign and we have also filed for Youth Opportunity Program tax credits. Additional grant monies are being looked at for additional funds as the campaign moves forward. Just for the record there will be no need for tax increases to fund this project. CYBA is blind in its generosity to this community and is dedicated to the youth in the area. CYBA appreciates the opportunity to meet over this topic and looks forward to a long relationship with Boone County.

Commissioner Elkin stated that CJ Dykhouse the County Counselor has drawn up a draft for a Memorandum of Understanding for this initiative. This MOU would not necessarily go into a lease at this point but would basically give the County's blessings on fund raising between now and then. When a certain mile stone is reached then the County can start working on a land lease with CYBA. The MOU talks about the purpose of this project and other general things that would be the basis for the agreement between the County and CYBA. The MOU will help for the opportunity for the Youth tax credits.

Commissioner Pearson stated the next step would probably be to have CYBA take a look at this MOU and have the CYBA's attorney go through this. If there are questions they should probably be addressed to CJ Dykhouse.

Commissioner Miller stated she believed this was a very good draft and it thought of things that she had never thought about. This lays the groundwork for a really good partnership for a long term relationship. For example as we were discussing the recreation sales tax at the Fairgrounds, as a non for profit you would not have to collect sales tax but you would do so under an agreement because that would go right back into funding improvements out there.

Commissioner Miller stated she wants to be apart of this and she thinks that Commissioner Elkin has done a wonderful job meeting with all the youth basketball, soccer, and football to try and find ways to incorporate that need in the Fairgrounds. The County's long term plan in the Fairgrounds is for youth sports and this is part of the master plan.

Mr. Jennings stated yes CYBA is excited and he does not believe it is so far out.

Mr. Berry stated yeah, you are less and less far out of town all the time.

Commissioner Pearson stated yeah if "you build it they'll come" sort of deal, right?

Mr. Jennings stated this will have a great long term impact on the economy.

Commissioner Pearson stated this would be quite an addition to the community. CYBA plays mainly on the weekends, correct?

Mr. Berry stated yes, games are on Saturday's.

Commissioner Pearson asked if the kids practice during the week or how does that work?

Mr. Berry stated they practice in the schools most of the time and this would take some of the pressure off of them. Schools would still be used for practice time and CYBA does pay to practice there.

Commissioner Miller asked if CYBA has agreed to work with the City of Columbia Parks Department on scheduling and those kinds of things?

Mr. Berry stated yes, they have been our partner since 1995. CYBA works with the schools individually for practice times.

Commissioner Miller asked if the youth come from all over the County or primarily Columbia?

Mr. Berry stated primarily Columbia but not all of them. Having a facility at the fairgrounds provides the possibility of having a County wide league.

Commissioner Pearson asked if there were other organizations?

Mr. Berry stated yes, the Upward Basketball is a faith based league; Midwest Sports Challenge is privately run and is for profit.

Ms. Copeland stated they cannot offer any of the youth practice time right now and they have to use their own wiles to find practice places and times.

Commissioner Pearson asked if the CYBA would work with other organizations on the use of this space.

Mr. Berry stated yes and they would work with other sports as well. The volleyball people really need a place and this building would work really well.

Jana Heidy stated she is representing volleyball in Columbia and we desperately need space as well. Right now volleyball is in competition with the basketball groups for space. There are quit a few volleyball leagues in town that would love to expand but they can not. Currently there are five private volleyball organizations in Columbia right now. Ms. Heidy stated the one that she is currently associated with is Columbia Volleyball Club and now there are more kids to space and so they have to drop an age group which happens to be the young ones. Ms. Heidy stated she is trying to get the word out to some of the other volleyball organizations to assist with this.

Commissioner Elkin stated he would get CYBA a copy of the MOU and to feel free to contact CJ Dykhouse or the County Commission if there are any questions. Commissioner Elkin stated he just wanted to bring up one more thing concerning signage. In the MOU the County retains the ability to deny certain postings of signs.

Mr. Berry stated he understood that the County would have final say on what is posted around the facility.

Commissioner Miller stated CYBA could take her copy of the MOU so they could have their attorney look it over.

Miscellaneous

2. Public Comment

3. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Pearson stated the Census coming up is really important. There are ten questions which takes ten minutes and these will be sent out in March. Census day is April 1st and you can fill it out as soon as you receive it. This is really important because the census determines how Congress determines its representation in the House of Representatives and Missouri is in jeopardy of loosing one of its seats. In addition there is a lot of federal money that is distributed based on population. Commissioner Pearson stated the Census is really important.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Attest:

Kenneth M. Pearson
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Skip Elkin
District II Commissioner