

Sauk Prairie FFA Alumni and Supporters Meeting
September 4, 2019
Minutes

Sauk Prairie FFA Alumni members met at the high school agriculture sciences classroom to discuss potential property change for the future.

Members in attendance: Mike & Maria Dunse, Brad Anderson, Mark & Sally Ladsten, Terry & Sue Slotty, Kimmi Evert, Lora Kippley, Tom & Kathy Breunig, BJ Chrisler, John Hromyak, Jerry Keller, Ken Noltner, Amy Yanke, Chris Fehrman, Nancy Liegel, Vern Neumann, Art Mueller, Cathy Yanke, Maria Dunse, Keith Slotty, Beth Yanke, Tina Raschein, Tim & Lisa Evert, Scott & Rita Davis, Greg & Wendy Sprecher, Katie Hacker, Austin Sandmire, Greg Elsing, Jim Bickford, Chad Brickl, Chuck Sprecher, Gavin Sprecher, Ed Larsen, Tracy Waldinger, Betty Waldinger, Joe Keller, Cathy Jo Schreiber, Frank Kuzma, Kim Adler, Tom Brennan, Troy Talford

Brad Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

Secretary's report – Minutes from last meeting and this meeting will be presented in October meeting

Treasurer's Report – Kathy Breunig

- Checking account: \$ 15,129.88
- Mortgage: a little over \$50,000

Motion to approve the treasurer's report – Tom Brennan, Tracy Waldinger seconded. Motion Passed

Old Business

Fish Fry, September 27 – Same day as 7th day career day and volunteers will be needed. Fish Fry will be \$12.00 per plate and sold on a first come first serve basis.

Back to School Picnic, September 16 – Students and Alumni are welcome to attend the Back to School picnic at the Alumni park to network with one another.

Raffle – Tickets available to check out after this evenings meeting.

Meeting at Merrimac, October 9 – The Alumni sponsored 5 teachers to attend Ag in the Classroom, two of which were from Merrimac therefore it will be fitting to visit the Merrimac K-5 building on October 9. Time TBD.

7th Grade Career Day – Chaired by Amy Yanke – coming along nicely.

Alumni Vision – Brad, Mike and Troy Led – requested all comments and questions reserved until the end of the meeting. Brad proceeded with presenting prepared powerpoint by Board Members. (INCLUDE IN MINUTES??)

Additions / Corrections / Comments on Presentation:

Modify well and septic to add an additional \$50,000 per Chad Brickl accounting for commercial property use

Chris Fehrman noted there may be specific parking lot requirements when dealing with large equipment.

It was noted by Troy Talford if a farm was added to the property, it would be a school district managed entity. A farm would not be on the alumni's property, but near the property if there was a land purchase partnership with the school district. This would exposure agriculture to students who don't have that option in their normal day-to-day life. Connect students to where their food comes from. Troy also shared 7 out of 85 eighth graders had a farm background in the 2018-2019 school year.

Brad Anderson noted the board has no properties in mind at this time. Kelter property would have been ideal but has an offer on the table at this time.

Cathy Jo Schrieber asked which entity was interested in purchasing the facility – Brad Anderson noted that the Sauk Prairie Police Department is looking for a five acre parcel within the village. There are three properties in mind and the Alumni property is most preferred / ideal. An answer is needed by next week for the police department to move forward with their decision-making process.

What is the desired price point for the new property? – Chad Brickl – noted the estimate is easily \$100,000 light in excavating alone. Troy noted the district is interested in partnering with expenses – driveway / natural gas / utilities etc. Police commission would let us lease our current property back 2 – 5 years before they build. No specific number was provided.

Would partnering with the district effect alcohol sales on property - Cathy Yanke – Troy noted this should not be an issue as the property we would purchase would belong to the alumni and not the school district.

Jeff Wright's intentions seem contradictory in his interest in promoting agriculture with students as he shows no interest in Ag in the Classroom programs - Nancy Liegel – Troy noted he can't speak specifically to the Ag in the Classroom program as the involvement in those program is driven by the principal and is curriculum of the building, not necessarily a superintendent. Troy noted that J. Wright recognizes the support our group gives the district's agriculture program and is excited for the prospect of creating a school farm in the future for our school district.

Expenses are being discussed but is there the option to rent out the new facility? - Austin Sandmire – Brad Anderson noted that this is something the alumni board is considering as an option for a revenue source down the road.

As our current debt diminishes – what will our next capital project be as a non-profit? – BJ Chrisler posed to the group with no response.

Is the school district looking to sell some property? - Kenny Noltner – Troy Talford noted cannot speak to that fully as do not know the running logistics. It was noted that if there was any property being sold, it would be the property on Sauk Prairie Road.

What is the overall consensus? Posed to group by Brad Anderson –

Amy Yanke – Noted the alumni as a whole has been concerned about the \$50,000 debt but are anxious to jump \$800,000 in debt?

Mark Ladsten – Offered the members present at tonight’s meeting yield estimated asking price of current property to present to Sauk Prairie Police Department. Declined by Brad Anderson.

Brad Anderson – Believes the Sauk Prairie Police Department wants to purchase between \$500,000-600,000.

Is it going to be built as a tractor pulling building or a multi-use facility - Cathy Yanke – Troy noted we had a good fall pull this year and this whole endeavor started for tractor pulling so that would certainly be at the forefront of the design however the building would have a multi-use focus. This meeting at least gets the conversation started.

Jerry Keller noted that he thinks of this as a great opportunity to expand the Alumni’s horizons. Concerts and rodeos could be held there - it’s not just tractor pulling.

Troy Talford noted opportunities to partner with the Chamber on the PR side of things – is something to consider.

Anticipated Capacity? - Tracy Waldinger – Brad Anderson stated 300-350 people seated and noted that 200 people currently at the Sportsman’s Banquet.

Is there any pressure from the village to get out of our current facility? - Jim Bickford – Brad Anderson noted not at this time.

Zoning to consider? - Greg Sprecher – Can get very in depth with regards to agriculture zoning.

TONIGHT’S GOAL – Are we interested? If so – what’s next?

Current property also requires updates to be within village specification noted Brad Anderson

Chad Brickl suggested \$850,000 and the Alumni would provide them with a clear sight

Mark Ladsten noted that Sauk Prairie is a strong community that has a history of strong fundraising and the alumni could prioritize the project.

Tim Evert - What does this group provide to kids every year as a monetary donation?

\$8,000 – 10,000 but can be up to \$15,000 anticipated by Troy Talford. Tim noted that that the potential debt seems like a very steep number for a very small number being turned around and donated to the kids.

If we move forward, we cannot take away funding from the kids stated Troy Talford

If we move forward, the build would be taken in stages stated Troy Talford

Currently no properties in mind if we do move forward stated Brad Anderson.

Ed Larson asked if the Alumni can sell naming rights – Troy noted it is possible

Refurbishing the old facility is also not off the table noted Brad Anderson

Other various questions regarding details of presentation were discussed.

Beth Yanke moved to limit discussion to three more people. Austin Sandmire seconded. Motion Passed.

BJ Chrisler moved to contact police commission with two considerations. Price if the Alumni provides a clean site or leaves as is and they provide an offer for both options. Tracy Waldinger seconded. Discussion to bring it back to membership within the month. Motion passed.

Bleacher estimate is still coming in per Mike Dunse

Chad Brickl to look into track expenses.

Art Mueller asked if a concrete wall is necessary as it isn't seen at all pulls.

Well and septic must be reevaluated per Chris Fehrman

This meeting was a good discussion that at least gets the alumni thinking about the future. If this is something we pursue, it is going to be a team effort and cannot fall on a small group of people.

Next meeting date: September 25 if the police commission comes back with an acceptable offer.

Move to adjourn – BJ Chrisler

Seconded – Tim Evert

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM