



Fayetteville Council of Neighborhoods

July 19, 2007

Meeting Minutes

5:30 pm Meeting was called to order by the President Mark Kinion

Neighborhoods Represented / Attending

Katherine Adam	Town Mountain South
Susan Jenkins	Elm/Erstan/Baker
Mark Kinion	Wilson Park
Bob Caulk	Mt. Sequoyah South
Nancy Williams	SW Sequoyah
Teresa Kolb	Wyman Stonebridge
Sarah Lewis	Sang Valley
Jo Ann Kvamme	Root School
Claire Wiseman	Woodland
Aubrey Shepherd	Town Branch
Frank Johnson	Copper Creek
Joel Nunneley	(Visitor for FHS Discussion)
Janine Perry	(Visitor for FHS Discussion)
Kit Williams	City Attorney
Brett Bennett	Reporter, Times
Julie McQuade	Neighborhood Coordinator

Each speaker was given 15 minutes to present their information and opinions on the placement of the new high school, then the floor will be open to questions and comments.

Joel Nunneley spoke first. His main points included:

1. We need to model good behavior to kids
2. He supports elected officials opinions no matter what they decide
3. There are problems with the current high school location including:
 - a. School construction while students are trying to attend classes
 - b. Poor access

- c. Wants to see the property sold to the university
 - d. High school so close to the university is not all good
 - e. Only 18 students attend university classes not from FHS
 - f. Not geographically centered
 - g. Fix for school too expensive
4. Dean Solomon not the perfect site but he feels the settlement property is the best choice.
 5. He urges all to embrace the solution whatever it is.

Janine Perry teaches state and local government at the University of Arkansas and heads up the group "Build Smart". They have 350 members of parents, teachers and businesses.

- They prefer a combination of plans D and E
- There are advantages and disadvantages to all the ideas but a more central location is best (old location)
- On June 5th meeting Board of Education seemed to be leaning toward the Dean Solomon site based on the defeat of the last millage and trying to come up with the lowest millage that would pass public elections
- New construction on current site could be comparable and we need to consider:
 1. Folks are uncomfortable with one large school of 3000 instead of two schools
 2. Folks are uncomfortable with putting the 9th grade into the high school
 3. Extracurricular activities are important
 4. Location should be in close proximity to the city library, university, Walton Arts center
 5. The number of students taking classes at the university ranges from 18-137 (no one seems to know)
 6. Justin Minkel- Teacher of the Year took classes at the university when he was at FHS
 7. Presently, students can walk or bike to school because the infrastructure is already in place this positively affects the city center.
 8. The proposed new location is on the Springdale/Farmington line so growth will HAVE to be to the south and east (away from the new location)
 9. Existing facility is inadequate
 10. New construction at the old site would create two buildings – one for the older and one for the younger students on the same campus. With the movement of the administration building it would be possible to build the JR/SR facility there.
 11. Construction while students are present is inconvenient but happens all over the US. The benefits to this plan are:

- We can use the infrastructure already in place
 - No sprawl
 - Cost about the same
- For new location FHS was once appraised at \$61 Million but the real value is closer to \$39 Million so we would need 3-5 mils for the new school
 - If the new land was sold we could reduce the mils to 5.5-7 needed to keep the present location
 - Fuel expenses for families need to be considered since the new site is much further for most students plus the funds necessary to create the roads, sidewalks, sewer, water etc. will have to be added to that price. We need to know these costs before making a decision.

Questions:

What is a mil?

Janine – that is the tax rate 1/10th of 1%. Fayetteville is now at 43 mils.

3-4 mils would translate into about \$90/year on a home worth \$150,000.

7-8 mils (highest) would translate into \$210/year for a home worth \$150,000

Will there be an increase with either decision?

Yes.

What is the difference in size of the parcels?

The current site is 40 acres and the new site has 100 acres.

They say there will be more intramural fields at the new location but all children do not have cars to get to and from new location. This could be problematic getting them transported to and from events.

Do they have to sell the old location if they build on the new site?

No but the school must be paid for somehow and this was one way to decrease the amount needed to build the new school. If we get funds from the University (for the old property) and then the taxpayers pick up the rest.

Part of the problem with two high schools is the perception of the rich/poor school or new/old school.

This can be gotten around. Potentially building a moderate school on the present site and sell the new land and build a second school where the growth is in the future.

Document suggests that the minimum acreage for a high school in Arkansas is about 80-100 acres.

That is true however most states have repealed those requirements and many 2000-3000 student schools are on 15 acres. Our situation would be two 3-4 story buildings on the present site.

Open to the neighborhoods -

Wilson Park made three resolutions at their meeting this month.

1. Keep all public land – DO NOT sell off our cities assets
2. Support City Councils recommendation to keep a central high school
3. Support Build Smart

Bob Caulk likes old location but would support either. He feels the millage went down due to other issues last time. When Jefferson closed they said they would rebuild in the area and then immediately changed to the far western area. I think we have a trust issue. Most feel betrayed and most like the present location.

Nancy Williams was concerned that we have diesel busses and the air quality on them can be very bad – why put them on the busses for a longer period of time transporting them to a further locale?

Jo Ann Kvamme favors the old location however feels strongly the infrastructure has to be in place before a school is built, if that is the decision. This was a huge mistake when Holt Middle School was built. It created a dangerous driving situation. Also, there are no easy ways to get from the east side of town to the new school site. In my experience from the Mission/265 area to Holt can take a half hour in the morning and the proposed location is even further.

Frank Johnson stated that his neighborhood is more interested in whether they should be part of Springdale or Fayetteville schools.

Aubrey Shepherd feels the current location is convenient and keeps more with the sustainability theme of the city. Students are more likely able to walk, ride bikes or take the bus. We shouldn't be selling off land until we know where our infrastructure will be. Also, the building shouldn't matter – it is the books, teachers, and labs that matter in for an education.

Kit Williams was reluctant to give up the old site. The school board needs to be careful when all the votes are 4/3 and then they ask for money. Folks do not feel confident in

their decisions. The one versus two schools, 9th grade in the high school, the closing of West campus and sold the land. These were all close votes and they created some of the problems we have now. The school board has a lot of work to do and the lowest possible millage is not the best plan.

Julie McQuade has a current FHS 10th grade student and the Deane Solomon area has no restaurants so the students would be racing out to get food with an open campus lunch policy and there will be an increase in accidents where now there are food vendors close to campus and many students walk off campus.

Mark Kinion called for a poll of Council of Neighborhood members attending on support for new location vs. current location - Unanimous support for current location from council members.

Next, asked about supporting a higher millage to retain current location or lower millage at new location. 9 votes in support of paying a higher millage in order to retain current location - 0 votes for lower millage at new location.

Meeting adjourned.