



## Community Meeting Minutes

### November 15, 2021

#### Members:

- Present: Reba Casler, Beth Davis, Rick Homkes, Janna Hyman, Suzy Landrum, Jill Newby
- Absent: Erica Parvin
- Guests: Several town council members and other citizens (sign in sheet included)
- Meeting started at 6:30 PM

#### Business:

- Jill Newby welcomed all in attendance and gave a description of the process of developing a Five Year Plan. Included was the importance between the plan and having the board apply for grants. These grants are much needed in allowing community projects to be completed.

#### Surveys:

- Rick Homkes went over our goals as a board and explained some background on the Five Year Plan:
  - Five Year Plan Requirements
    - You must have public input, surveys.
    - You must have open meetings.
- He then went over how the surveys were collected:
  - Art and Craft Fair
  - Volunteer Fire Department
  - Local Church Youth
  - Total 117 surveys

#### Discussion:

- Each person in attendance received a copy of the survey results.
  - Rick led the group discussion starting with page one, which asks the question of the regular use of venues in the County. He asked if any results surprised anyone.
    - Several felt the number was low for Baseball/Softball fields.
    - Most did not know what 9 Square in the Air was. Rick explained (he did not know before the survey either).
  - Survey page two: Which of the following would you like to have more access to in Russiaville?
    - There was general consensus that the highest rated were the most needed.
    - Third highest response was a Water Park/ Splash Playground - Rick commented on excess expense and high maintenance.
    - Sixth highest response was a Dog Park. Group discussion was concern about the amount of land it would require.
    - Seventh highest response was Indoor Exercise and Weightlifting Facilities. Group discussion included that there would need to be an onsite instructor. Some



ideas were to use the Field House at Western, and to open communication with Western's AD for use of the high school facilities.

- Survey page three: Were you aware that Russiaville has?
  - The least amount of people knew about the Memorial pavers. Group discussion brought up several ideas of how to inform the community. Megan suggested the Russiaville website. Reba suggested a new Facebook site "Russiaville Chatters".
- Survey page four: Rate priorities that the town officials should place on ...
  - Most felt the maintenance of our parks and recreational facilities.
  - Installation of public restroom in Community Center Park. Some concerns of vandalism, and maintenance.
  - Programs that center on youth activities. Comments made to partner with other organizations, especially the library.
- Survey page five: Community was asked to list what they feel should be included in the Five Year Plan.
  - Sidewalks was at the top of the list. Public restrooms followed second. Don Parvin commented that both of these projects were in the process of being done.

**Summation:**

- Rick brought the meeting to a conclusion by saying we were able to create a good demographic distribution of surveys.
- Jill Newby adjourned meeting at 7:00 PM.

Minutes taken by Janna Hyman.

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