

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 11, 2017 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Brenda Holt, District 4, Chair, P
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2 - absent
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1
Gene Morgan, District 3 - absent
Sherrie Taylor, District 5 p
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator
David Weiss, County Attorney
Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Taylor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Stevens School Community Meeting. The vision was read by the Deputy Clerk.

Vision:

The vision of Stevens Multipurpose Cultural Arts Center is to create a one-stop facility that is driven by the needs of the Gadsden County Community.

Mission:

To create a comprehensive facility that provides and increases public safety, health and wellness, economic development, youth education and enrichment, recreational activities and cultural awareness.

Commissioner Taylor said the average age of the person that would use this building was 65 and they should take into consideration what should go into that area.

Mrs. Jackson gave an update and thanked them for the commitment. She said they should discuss what they want in the building and offered suggestions to go into the space. She discussed a small buildout with the \$500,000.

Commissioner Taylor asked where to go from here.

Chair Holt added that the Gretna facility it was a County building and belonged to the public and the building they were meeting at was a City owned building and the police department should be in it. She gave for consideration one city in Texas made their cafeteria into a theater. She also suggested the business incubators.

Carolyn Ford said she was in favor of the economic development parts with the business incubators and food hub. She discussed a commercial kitchen and said they should knock a wall out to make it larger. She said Phase 2 would include the children.

Commissioner Taylor suggested Education/Enrichment/Public Safety/Business Incubator/Health Services and said she understood business, "You want something to draw money." She mentioned satellite services such as health department and a police department. She said the Business Incubator would be a

cost and they must be careful. She asked how they would pay for services that would cost. . She added that health concerns were a major issue, how to deal with food and change the mindset of those that would rather cook and sell from their homes.

Mrs. Carolyn Ford said she didn't understand what the county was trying to run.

Mrs. Taylor said the County would not run it.

Chair Holt said they would not do it, but would contract out.

Commissioner Taylor said the needed to discuss the businesses they wanted now.

Substation/protection/health; place for kids/ health and kids/ extend wall in kitchen – business/like wall out, commercial kitchen – youth

She said to make the building ready and to keep the economic engine in mind and then put an RFP out to contract out to business. She wanted Clyde Collins to wire up so that business would come.

Commissioner Taylor recapped the evening and asked if they thought they could use the existing structure and fit all the services that were mentioned in it.

It was the consensus they could make it work, but not at the same time.

Chair Holt said they could not mix children with business and suggested they get a school for a program with children. She said the businesses could bring in money for capital outlay and economic opportunities.

Commissioner Taylor said children were the future and felt they should look at needs.

Chair Holt said they should put pressure on the schools for the children. "Take a business mindset. Go after what is economically sound. Don't squeeze all your ideas into one little building. Pull police station out of this plan and put the police in this building."

Some of the ideas mentioned:

Children Programs

Health Wellness

Public Safety

Economic Development (Business)

Educational Program for children - 5

Business Incubator – 7 vote

Public Safety – 6

Health and Wellness - 5

Phase 1: Business Incubator/Public Safety - 7 vote; Health Wellness -5 / Children -7

Mr. Clary, a nearby resident, complained that there were no lights, was drug infested, and no public restrooms at the Kelly/Campbell Park. He asked where and why was the City Commission not present.

Mrs. Ford said they should hold the City of Quincy responsible.

Commissioner Taylor said the Friends of Steven have spoke on what they would like and would give Clyde directives. She suggested they go look at the building at the next meeting. She said they would love to have facility ready with offices by the summer. She wished them all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Next Meeting: Jan 8, 2018 at 5:00 pm – Walk through

Adjournment

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 7:23 P.M.**

BRENDA HOLT, CHAIR

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK