

Judicial & Administrative Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 26, 2022-5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Rockdale County Courthouse Superior Courtroom 225C

1. Call to Order: Judicial & Administrative Task Force meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.
  - a) Members attending: Chairperson - JaNice Van Ness, State Court Judge Richard Read, Chief Superior Court Judge Robert Mumford, Dr. Stephen Boyle, Donald Murphy, Doug Smith
  - b) Members not present: Secretary - Wendi Armstrong, Sheriff Eric Levett, and Franklin Beaufort
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Motion to approve minutes made by Judge Mumford, seconded by Judge Richard Read
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Public Comment
  - a. One public comment card was received.
  - b. Public Comment: Questioned if there was also renovation to be done in the old courthouse, Chairperson Van Ness responded, yes. Commenter also mentioned results from poll questions on the May 24<sup>th</sup> election ballot regarding the location of a new Courthouse and said that many voters may have skewed reporting by voting no to all questions regarding the location since they are opposed to a new complex.
5. Task Force Discussion
  - a. Chairperson Van Ness stated that the task force completed a tour of the facilities at the last meeting to get a better understanding of the concerns regarding the condition and security of the various facilities.
    - i. Chairperson Van Ness said she did speak with Dr. Boyle regarding the courthouse designs presented in the past.
    - ii. Chairperson Van Ness opened the floor to Task Force Member comments regarding the condition of the facilities.
6. Task Force Member Comments.
  - a. The decision to move forward with a new facility is crystal clear. Added that the current state of the facilities is atrocious.
  - b. The most shocking thing is the problems with the administration building. Added that this is a severe situation and a little bit scary.

- c. The current condition of the building is the first thing people see as they enter the planning and development office and is not the image that Rockdale County wants to present. Added that the square footage may need to be updated.
- d. The Consultant Subcommittee needs to review the four pre-qualified architectural design firms and present a recommendation that the task force can adopt.
- e. A question was posed regarding how comparable the previous studies are.
- f. A response was that the studies range in date from 2018 to 2020 but they will review and update information as needed.
- g. A comment that once square footage needs were updated, a suitable location could be determined, and a final decision could be made about what can or cannot be done.
- h. A discussion was had as to the best way to select two finalists out of the four prequalified design firms.
  - i. Chairperson Van Ness asked for the names of the firms
  - ii. Executive Director Sue Sanders responded:
    - 1. Lyman Davis Dooly
    - 2. Nelson
    - 3. Jericho
    - 4. Praxis 3
  - iii. Chairperson Van Ness asked if the task force could include Heery since they have done this type of work in the past.
  - iv. Executive Director Sanders responded that she would check with purchasing.
- i. A discussion was had by the task force as to whether they could fast track the process by using Jericho since the county has worked with them in the past.
- j. Chairperson Van Ness commented that she had a conversation with Doug Shaw regarding cost and the cost for a blended use complex could range from the high three hundreds to four hundreds.
  - i. Chairperson Van Ness reviewed the process they would follow in selecting two firms to present to the task force. She then asked for questions or additional comments on this.
- k. The group collectively agreed to set a goal of voting on a firm in July.
- l. The task force discussed the need to allow space for future growth in the design and agreed to let the design firm review the space needs with each department head and update the square footage that would include space for future growth.
- m. Chairperson Van Ness asked why there were separate studies prepared.
  - i. Executive Director Sanders replied that after the referendum did not pass, the primary concern was the security at the courthouse. The separated study for an admin building was because there is no more room for staff.

7. Next Meeting: June 23, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment: Judge Mumford motioned to adjourn. Chairperson Van Ness seconded.