

FY2011-2015 Capital Improvements Plan – Appendix A FY2016 and Beyond Initiatives

The Capital Improvements Plan is a guide to the direction a community is taking with regard to its financially substantive building, infrastructure, and other tangible investments. The CIP is generally a five year plan that includes project narratives as well as cost estimates (all referenced without inflationary assumptions.) While the five year timeframe is helpful in order to begin the planning and grant application processes for those projects that are more thoroughly developed, there are other initiatives that bear long-term consideration. This appendix to the FY2011-2015 CIP is designed to address projects of this type.

I. Intergenerational Center

An intergenerational center has been discussed at various levels in Fluvanna County over the last decade. The current senior center, run by the Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA), is housed at the Fluvanna Community Center located in Fork Union. JABA has expressed its desire to partner with the County when we are ready to proceed with an intergenerational center at Pleasant Grove and to seek grants and donations to supplement and leverage County funding. The project was submitted in the FY2011-2015 CIP process by the Department of Parks and Recreation with the strong endorsement of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Because this project is in the very preliminary stages, a reliable cost estimate is not available.

The project was generally described as follows:

The Fork Union Community Center is a 9,000 square foot building that houses the administrative office of Parks and Recreation, the JABA Senior Center and our community cultural arts and educational programs. With the expansion of new recreational programs, facility rentals, community meeting requests, and the senior center program, this facility has reached its maximum capacity. For many years the County has long planned for a Community Recreation Center to be located at Pleasant Grove. The County has experienced continued development at Pleasant Grove, and the addition of an Intergenerational Center would provide a facility for users of all ages to recreate together. The center would serve to facilitate both active and passive recreation, social interaction, and community meetings. It could provide a permanent home for the senior center along with a number of other areas that may include a 4 lane bowling center, an atrium lounge with WiFi and computer access, an indoor playground, activity and meeting rooms, a concession/kitchen area and a theatre-seating multi use auditorium for Board and Commission meetings, a movie theatre, education and training, and small concerts. Such a facility would unite citizens under one roof for a wide variety of activities, functions and uses.

There has been significant discussion among staff, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Planning Commission regarding appropriate placement of this project within the CIP. While the County recognizes the value of an intergenerational center

at Pleasant Grove, a number of factors led to the recommendation from County Administration and the Planning Commission that this project be placed in the FY2016 and Beyond Appendix.

The following factors were of primary concern to County Administration: a) the additional personnel needed to staff the facility, and b) a plan for use of the existing Community Center. The recession has led the County to withhold raises and new personnel for the last year and perhaps the year ahead. When the economy recovers, there will be a number of previously unaddressed needs that will be hitting a critical level. Therefore, we have to think carefully about infrastructure that would require additional positions that are otherwise not yet needed and not as high a priority as those that will have been waiting. This correlates with the need to keep the existing Community Center a vital part of the County, because in order to do that, staffing for the Intergenerational Center would be in addition to the existing staffing level and not the result of transferring personnel to another facility.

The next issue is the development of a plan for the change in use of the existing Community Center. When it no longer functions as the offices of Parks and Recreation and the senior center, there is concern that it will cease to be seen as a community space that draws citizens to the Fork Union area for programming. We want to maintain a balance between the successful growth of Pleasant Grove and the desire to keep the other areas/buildings within the County alive.

II. Athletic Field Lighting

This project was generally described as follows in the CIP request:

Currently the only lit fields available for use by the County are at the Carysbrook facility. During the fall program season we offer tackle/flag football, soccer, lacrosse, and softball/baseball programs. The growth and participation levels of our fall sports programs make it extremely challenging to schedule these programs on only 2 lit fields. By providing lights on the multi-purpose field and 1 baseball field at Pleasant Grove, this will remove the overcrowding at Carysbrook.

While there is general agreement that there is a need for additional lit fields available for programming by Parks and Recreation, construction of the new high school may alleviate the current strain on the existing lit fields. Once the new high school is fully operational, the fields at the old high school should no longer be considered “competition fields”. The current Memorandum of Understanding between the County Parks and Recreation Department and the School System allows for use of “non-competition fields” by Parks and Recreation. Therefore, Administration found it prudent to place this project request in the Appendix to 1) recognize the need for lit fields, and 2) recognize the hope and likelihood that this project goal will be accomplished without additional funding through integrating into the Parks and Recreation programming the lit fields at the existing high school.