

Minutes Camping Meeting Bonner Springs May 17, 2003

ATTENDING: Smokey McKinney, Chris Stewart, Tom Tinsley, Charles Garretty, Doug Portell, Cindy Portell, Jeff Gibson, Jerry Myers, Bill Carriger

Smokey opened the meeting at 9:20 by requesting reports from the Development Committee and attendees to the NACC workshop. Delayed until anticipated arrival of more attendees.

Smokey emphasized that we need to have some additional work by all the committees between meetings.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Doug Portell gave the Development Committee report. An exciting development is that he has a person who develops HUD housing and is planning to do one and give the proceeds to the Camping effort. Past profits per house has been around \$10-20K. Some questions about the process were asked and answered. Doug then addressed the issue of cost of new construction vs. buying established facility such as Camp Chihowa. Doug has worked with Morton Buildings and showed some initial drawings of a potential facility they had drawn up for us. Main building would sleep about 80 people with feeding facility for 20-30 people at a time. Basic quote for "shell construction only" \$304,000 with no plumbing or interior finishing, utilities, etc. A plus is no Architect expenses.

Discussion followed on comparison of this proposal vs. purchase. Jerry Myers stated he would prefer a walk out ranch with a different foundation type (not slab) for future stability. Presented a plan similar to one he saw in Geneva WI. He also introduced the possibility of free logs for a building from an elder in TN if we can present a viable plan. Also the possibility of getting free windows, etc. Cost of total construction, not including kitchen facilities about \$68 per square foot. However many camps get special donations/discounts on equipment. Doug offered that we need to get a shell up to have something to show people and then recruit sweat equity from congregations to complete.

Smokey recapped creative ideas that excited him. E.g. Doing HUD houses, shipping truckload to TN to get free log shipment, donated materials, etc. However, we may be getting the "cart before the horse." He feels we need to make a "property decision" first. May be preliminary, before national meeting report, but feedback was cabins are essential and facility should not be too close. Showed a picture of Fall Hall Glenn camp where meeting was held.

Report from NACC meeting by Chris Stewart. Unanimous recommendation from other camps was 100 plus acres needed for a camp. Oregon rep. said we should be able to raise \$1,000,000 over 3 years for a camp. Don't think small, think big. Chihowa may be too close. Should send questions to NACC camps as we develop them to get the benefit of their experience. Some discussion followed on issues with respect to Chihowa. Some additional information concerning kitchen facilities, deep fat fryer, etc. also presented.

Discussion followed on the issue of raising funds at this time with the financial issues many of the participating churches are currently facing. We still don't have a good estimate of what it would cost to develop a camp. Jeff suggested that we might need to gradually develop a camp from rough to more developed. Issue of slowing momentum was also raised. Need to establish a clear vision and move forward if we hope to keep this effort alive. Also need to consider safety (tornado alley) issues. May need to think big while starting small.

Smokey proposed that we need some deadlines and focus issues.

Dollar number for initial implementation - \$500,000

Date for Focus _____

Date for Initial Facility Use - 2 years?

Write a Purpose - Chris Stewart by next meeting

Draw a plan (1) 10 cabins plus meeting hall, or (2) large retreat center initially (80)

Survey NACC - Chris Stewart and Charles Garretty

Is it a consensus that a retreat center be the first priority? Each church having having responsibility to build a cabin(s).

Jerry suggested someone survey everyone and keep communications going before the next meeting. Bill to draw up a plan (2 year, \$500,000 cost) by our next meeting JUNE 21 AT LEAVENWORTH Church.

Charles Garretty closed the meeting with a prayer at 11:25