

JACC Minutes – 5/23/2023

Attendees: Matt, Erik, Carrie, Marni, Rich, Margaret, Brenda, Sandi

## Agenda

### 1. Aquatic Recreation Center Bond

#### a. Board feedback from decision making

- i. Matt – discussion at the most recent JACC wrestled with a bunch of imperfect options. Decision at the Parks Board went through the same set of imperfect options before deciding to slide to April.
- ii. Erik – not an easy decision, wanted to avoid sticker shock \$80M+\$27M. We all want the same thing and for both bonds to be successful.

#### b. Foundation feedback decision to move ballot measure to April 2024

- i. Marni – several Foundation members think November is a better time. Moving around isn't great.
- ii. Rich – looking at it from the perspective as a deep student of Island County politics. Reviewed patterns and trends. Nature of what's on the ballot and the timing are critical. We are a smaller ask with a big impact on the community. If we go off on a special election window thinks the turnout would be abysmal. SD on the other hand would be better served on a special election ballot because they have a bigger footprint than the PD. November is a big election – almost every local office is on the ballot. On SW, no one filed to run for school board and parks board positions other than incumbents. Therefore many voters will be pulled out who are not parents, and that is good for us. Schools are going to have a tough run over the next couple of months. Operating budget cuts 10% based on forecast for declining enrollment doesn't put them in a good position for the capital ask. ICA simultaneously going +60 (with 100 applicants) to 200 kids total enrollment in the fall. School-aged population actually increasing but SWSD in decline because of schools performance, policies, etc. We really should do November. And if we can't go this November we should wait until next November because we're not a good off-cycle ballot measure. Would love to be on the same ballot with them. Sandi and Brenda agreed. Erik pointed out that state funding is taking a hit, and those hits are not directly connected with enrollment. Marni agrees with Rich about this November, but disagreed with waiting until next November if this November wasn't the option.
- iii. Sandi – do we know for sure Schools in November? PD is being very considerate of the schools, but have the schools ever reached out to us to show consideration to us? Erik - confirmed November in conversation with Superintendent. SD focused on their bond and it would be nice for them to reach out to us but hasn't happened. Will bring up this comment in meeting with Supt. tomorrow. Matt described

the relationship between Districts as being at a low point, based on changes to the MOU between the two entities over the past several years, and noted that Erik was singlehandedly working to restore the relationship with one on one meetings with school and District leaders.

- iv. Brenda – sounds like its not a great relationship between the two Districts. SD didn't prepare well for the April ballot and if they don't prepare again in November is the public going to get bond fatigue? We're getting "railroaded" by the SD. Erik - will raise the issue with the SD tomorrow. Brenda - we have lots of support and momentum and we don't want to lose this. Erik – lot of parents working really hard on the bond committee getting information out at the last minute. The SD making the April ballot decision late put these parents in a bind.
- v. Margaret – did some research and it appears greater turnout makes it more difficult for SDs to pass bonds, found recommendations that SDs target special elections with bond measures and focus on turning out the vote specifically for the measure. Not a strong feeling either way - we should simply focus on the best approach to get both the PD and the SD bond measures passed. Sandi – lot of momentum for PD bond. Don't want to lose momentum and think we can get out the vote for November. Rich – do we think we'll be ready? Marni – schematic design roughly done in September but not necessarily a requirement for November. Rich – we were going to get a number out of SD. Marni – we have \$27M. Rich – our timeline needs to match. Marni – we should ask ARC for the timeline on completion of SD. Rich – Schools already exist so they have an advantage – we're proposing building something completely new. Marni – the school hasn't prepared anything in detail like we have. Erik – school bond committee has a planning team/consultant. Brenda – what would the schools do if November failed? Matt – Jim Nelson's thought was February 2024. Margaret – Rich's information that general election voters will support us is compelling. Brenda – this should be a good thing for the schools. Matt – potential for sticker shock and potential for one campaign undercutting support for the other. Rich – we just need to be ready. Marni – indicated that Jim N had told us examples of successful measures that went forward with less preparation than us. Margaret – not a strong opinion Nov/Apr, but if we do go forward with them that we need to be as mutually supportive as possible. Matt/Erik – could we get a person from the GAP on their committee or at least put Brenda in contact with the committee education/marketing lead? All thought this was a good idea.
- vi. Carrie – One of the elements of the April decision was staff bandwidth to support the work needed on the measure, especially with no ED hire projected until at least Q4. Talked to the County Auditor's office -- April bond measure for SD was \$66k as a single item on that ballot. If we ran in November, with two commissioners on the ballot our expected

cost would be \$9k. If the measure is successful these fees can be paid from the bond proceeds.

2. Matt shared data from past Island County ballot measures
3. Matt shared Special vs. General Election comparison data