

TOWN OF WEBSTER
March 8, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes



The Webster Board of Commissioners met at the Webster Town Hall, located at 1411 Webster Rd., Webster, on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 6:30 p.m. for the March Special Meeting to vote on the revised Pavilion design.

Members/Staff Present: Mayor Tracy Rodes; Commissioners Dale Collins, Allen Davis, Brandon Core; and Danell Moses;

Members Absent: Vice Mayor Leigh Anne Young (joined virtually via zoom for discussion)

Others Present: Rusty Ellis, Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

Call to Order/Ethics Statement: Mayor Tracy Rodes called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and read the Ethics Statement. No board member expressed any conflict of interest.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: Commissioner Collins moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Davis seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Pavilion Design: Mayor Rodes invited Rusty Ellis, Director, Jackson County Parks and Recreation, to discuss the pavilion design options. Mr. Ellis shared options of Gabled 26' x 40' at 10' height and 26' side open (Option A); Shed 20'x30' at 12' height in front and 8' height in back, all four sides open (corner posts only), and 30' side being the front (Option B); and Gabled 26'x40' at 12' height and 26' side open (Option C). He included visual graphics of both the Gable and Shed style pavilion options as an example of the type that each style would be; renderings were not of actual pavilions. Mr. Ellis confirmed there are no additional design choices other than the ones presented.

Mayor Rodes asked the board to review the revised pavilion designs since the discussion and votes taken at the March 1 meeting were based on incorrect information due to a misunderstanding of the pavilion roof design. This is what necessitated that a special meeting be called to reexamine options. She noted that the 20' x 30' shed roof design that seats about 40 people is (\$73,128 without concrete pad), the 26' x 40' gable roof design that seats about 80 is (\$61,824 without concrete pad). Webster commissioners discussed the approximate \$11,713 overage that Webster may need to cover if the installation costs (\$27,500) aren't able to be lowered by contracting locally instead. There was board debate about downsizing, but the majority wanted something unique, and for aesthetic reasons accepted the trade off in seating capacity.

The following was the result of the informal voting obtained from the four Commissioners physically present at the meeting.

Option A

Two board members identified as their first choice (6 points total).

No Board members identified as their second choice (0 points).

Option B

Two board members identified as their first choice (6 points total).

One board member identified as their second choice (2 points total).

Option C

No board members identified as their first choice (0 points).

Three board members identified as their second choice (6 points total).

Based on the informal voting process, Option A acquired 6 total points, Option B acquired 8 total points and Option C acquired 6 total points. Vice Mayor Young's selections were not calculated in the point totals; however, her communicated preferences were Option B as her first choice and Option C as her second choice.

Motion: Commissioner Moses made a motion to identify Option A, Gabled 26'x40' at 10' height and 26' side open, as the first-choice design style for the pavilion. The motion did not carry for lack of a second.

Motion: Commissioner Core made a motion to identify Option B, Shed 20'x30' at 12' height in front and 8' height in back with all four sides open (corner posts only) and 30' side being the front, as the first-choice design style for the pavilion. Commissioner Collins seconded. The motion passed 3-1, with Commissioners Core, Collins and Davis voting in favor.

Motion: Commissioner Collins made a motion to identify Option C, Gabled 26'x40' at 12' height and 26' side open, as the second-choice design style for the pavilion. Commissioner Core seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The three-commissioner majority vote was for The shed roof shelter, it is 40% smaller than the size listed on the scope of the project paperwork that the County Commissioners previously approved. It is 60% smaller than what commissioners originally discussed. For that reason, Rusty asked Mayor Rodes for a letter explaining the reasoning for the substantial change. When asked, one majority vote member stated "the smaller footprint allows the shelter to be more multi-functional and preserves greenspace." Commissioner Davis said he would vote for Commissioner Young's preference since she wasn't able to attend. Several commissioners thought the smaller shed style shelter would better serve as a stage for a band.

A written response from another board member who supported the downsized shelter was:

"From the onset, our priorities have been two-fold: to provide a multi-functional community space that could host music events as well as birthday parties, while also honoring Webster's own unique history within our region. We feel that we have met those priorities with our current choice: a 20' x 30' structure with a shed roof. It is our sincere hope that the careful consideration given to this decision by our board matches the generosity of the gift, which when offered, came with the request from Senator Corbin, "to make something for which we would be proud."

Mayor Rodes stated that her goal is to make sure that all of our project partners are updated. She said she can confirm and defend their vote as procedurally sound, even if unable to justify the reasons.

Don Adams has indicated that he will update the paperwork after commissioners have been apprised of the recent change in scope and when he sees Mayor Rodes letter detailing the reasoning behind the change.

Mayor Rodes said "our township residents have a long-standing need for this shelter to hold community-building gatherings such as our traditional Miss Lucy's Picnic, Town Hall Style

community dinners, and most recently our first family block party. Due to the park's close proximity to multiple schools, its facilities will be widely used by the broader community.”

ADJOURNMENT

***MOTION:** Commissioner Core made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31p.m., seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion Carried unanimously..*

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, Friday, March 24, 2023 at 9:30am-12:30pm

Tracy Rodes, Mayor

Stephanie Gibson, Town Clerk