



# Work Session Summary Minutes

OREGON

## Valor Mentoring New Facility Discussion

January 23, 2024. 9:30 AM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem  
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

### ATTENDANCE:

**Commissioners:** Kevin Cameron, and Colm Willis.

**Board's Office:** Jan Fritz, Matt Lawyer, Chris Eppley, Toni Whitler, Alvin Klausen, and Shawnnell Fuentes.

**Legal Counsel:** Steve Elzinga.

**Valor Mentoring:** Shaney Hill, Tim Davis, Alyssa, Fausto Ramos.

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

### **Summary**

Mentoring facility near McKay High School, a 6,000 sq. ft. space in a strip mall. The facility will include a coffee shop, study rooms, and space for after-school programs like music, video sports, and mentoring. The project aims to engage underserved youth, with support from local principals and a \$225,000 grant for previous facilities. Concerns were raised about the county's resources and the need for a comprehensive grant application. The organization plans to hire bilingual staff and aims for self-sustainability within 12-18 months, with potential support from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other programs.

### **Valor Mentoring New Facility**

- The lease will be for at least three years.
- In discussion with the landlord for competitive pricing and favorable lease terms.
- Concept for a new mentoring facility.
- Facility would include the following:
  - Public coffee shop/snack area, study rooms, conference rooms, and after-school program space for music lessons, video production, eSports, etc.
- The goal is a safe, welcoming space for middle and high school students to engage in enrichment activities at no cost:
  - Regardless of income or background.
- The organization currently operates two facilities - a bowling alley in Kaizer and a youth center/coffee shop near McNary High School.
- Discussions have been held with the principals of Roberts High School, Adam Stephens Middle School, Waldo Middle School, and McKay High School, who are supportive and want to collaborate on tracking student behavior and incentivizing participation.
- Safe third spaces are disappearing for young people, and it is important to create them.

- Plans for a pizza oven and partnership with All In Meals for nutritious food options:
  - Aim to provide a balance of healthy and less healthy food options

### **Discussion**

- Timing and prioritization of expansion to other high-need areas like Woodburn was discussed, the organization focusing on McKay first due to timing and momentum of those conversations
- Differences in programming and engagement strategies for younger vs. older students, with larger group activities open to all ages and more personalized mentoring tailored by age
- The revenue model was reviewed, with the business operations (bowling, coffee shop) generating most of the revenue to support the free youth programming:
  - There are 30 employees, 12 are teenagers including first-job teens.

### **Other**

- Feedback was provided on the need for a comprehensive grant application to outline the funding needs and plans for the new facility
- The organization was encouraged to complete the CDBG application to provide more detailed information on the project

### **Next Steps**

- Submit a detailed proposal, including a business plan and budget, to the county by the following Thursday.
- Reach out to DHS about accepting SNAP benefits at the new facility.
- Explore partnerships with the McKinney-Vento program at McKay High School to provide meal access.
- Meet with Representative Kevin Mannix to discuss legislative funding opportunities for the project.

**Adjourned** – time: 10:21 a.m.

**Minutes by:** Mary Vityukova

**Reviewed by:** Gary L. White