

MAPLE LEAF PERFORMING ARTS CENTER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Since there has not been a public hearing for members of the community, many Brown County citizens feel that they have not had an opportunity to ask questions or state the concerns that they have about the MLPAC. Below is a sampling of what the questions and concerns are:

1. Who would own the MLPAC and be ultimately responsible for it all. The CVB or The County?
2. How long is the funding commitment? For how many years is the county promising to back the project?
How much is the county on the hook for if the project fails?
What options are there to recover something (taking ownership of the facility, that sort of thing) if it fails/continues to need county support?
What are the details of the project and when/how can the public access them, considering they want public money?
3. What is the management plan? Who is responsible for running the facility? Hiring?
4. I want to see the documents for myself. The people answering my questions haven't exactly proven themselves trustworthy and reliable.
5. Documents. Not public statements and pamphlets. The actual agreements being considered.
I'm generally positive about having this happen, but without trustworthy details I can't really support it.
6. How can they approve what they don't know the costs of??
7. Dog and pony shows are great but this a government project and I for one am not going to support something with so many variables and unanswered questions.
8. If the details are worked out then documentation should be available to the public. If they haven't, it is inappropriate to vote on funding.
9. A newspaper article is not documentation.
10. Here we go AGAIN..no planning..no public hearings ...not dog and pony shows but HEARINGS .
11. I think hearings would be a great idea. The most important part is including the community in the discussion. This is a small town. It shouldn't be hard to find out about the information sessions and hear what's developing first hand. This is the thing that has been missing in my opinion.
12. When is this vote and when will the numbers that will be voted on be available for public review and comment?
13. There seems to be a rush here in Brown County to conduct business that will impact the locals for generations to come without listening to what the locals' concerns are? When so called "not" (local) interests wanted to open two different, but similar, businesses in the county, they have been stopped cold due to "locals' concerns", no matter how baseless or trivial? Now logging and this new venue are being done expressly in opposition of locals' loud voices of protest? If it's such a great deal, why aren't they posting pdf spreadsheets all over to make their point? WHO makes a multimillion-dollar deal without knowing what the EXACT contract numbers are?? If the deal is so good, where is the risk? Let people weigh the pros and cons themselves and be transparent and people will back you.
14. That's their attorney's timeline? Lots of good delegation of authority there...where is the follow up? Benchmarks? The ever beloved "performance metrics"?! Has anyone done any of this?

- nature of the positions? (full time, part time and/or seasonal) Benefits?
16. What happens IF they do not make enough to pay the mortgage?
 17. Can the bank foreclose on this property and take possession if the loan defaults?
 18. Is this possible if you open the venue in April or May? When does the mortgage payment first come due?
 19. "...Innkeepers tax collections would need to rise by 20% between 2018 and 2019."
This number appears to be very aggressive? What is it based on?
 20. What are the other uses allowed/intended for this money? (Innkeepers Tax)
 21. Nashville Fire Department has said repeatedly it doesn't have the resources to protect this community. Now tell that is not a huge problem. They want all of these things but ignore basic infrastructure.
 22. Without a legally enforceable commitment that no public money beyond the innkeepers tax will be used, I can't support this project.
 23. If Brown County owns it and it will - the taxpayers will be responsible in part or for the entire thing. It's risky business and again if it is sustainable then let the private sector own and operate it.
 24. I would like to see a more accurate rendering of the proposed building as I know what we have seen in the BC have only been approximations.
 25. I would like to look at buildings already completed from the architect's portfolio as well as the track record of meeting completion dates and cost estimates by the construction contractor.
 26. I would like to know what is being done for the Community Care Center to shelter the patients from late night traffic noise.
 27. The CVC is in a contract for 95% of its revenue until the end of 2018 with the CVB. When is the first bond (loan) payment going to be due? Will the CVC break contract? At what cost?
 28. The Innkeepers tax. The CVC receives quarterly payments for these funds. Those funds are currently being spent entirely. No savings. What cuts are going to be made in the CVC and CVB budgets to accommodate the bond payment? Will staffing be cut? Advertising? What will be eviscerated from these budgets to free up funds for bond payments? Will the CVC and the CVB be able to continue their only function (promoting tourism) will such huge cut in their budgets?
 29. I would like to see an artist's rendering of what the building will actually look like as well as a list of similar buildings completed by the architect and builder. I sure hope this is not their first one.
 30. Is the fire department large enough and does it have appropriate equipment to serve a facility of this size?
 31. Can the town handle the additional sewage demands of Maple Leaf and Big Woods with the existing plant in Nashville? Does that plant have any capacity for additional projects after those two are in place?
 32. Has the Nashville Fire Chief been consulted and included in the planning of this facility?
 33. Has the Brown County Emergency Management official been consulted and included in the planning of this facility?

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS THAT WERE RECEIVED SINCE THE
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ON NOVEMBER 15TH**

1. When the project was first announced at the Playhouse, I was excited about the possibilities it presented. The lack of transparency, however, has led me to a place of never being able to support it.
2. What good is an open meeting for citizens to have effective e input if it is held after the commissioners and council have already voted? This is deplorable.
3. I am saddened that our county government has fallen this low, that our League had to intervene to get our officials to hold open citizens meetings.
4. We were told by the Commissioners that they would have a citizen's meeting a month ago - yet they never held one. Why not? They have made the distrust on many of our parts valid.
5. The three County Commissioners have not represented the citizens who elected them. They all need to be voted out.
6. Verbal statements are not a substitute for actual documentation.
Where is the factual documentation that the site chosen was the only one possible?
What other sites were investigated?
Where is the documentation as to the results of this?
Were the owners of the Old Opry and Bill Monroe's consulted about the possibility of merging the project with them?
Where are the reports on these discussions and, if made, why were they not made public?
7. Have the Commissioners and the County Council met with the loan generators independently?
With the architect and the builders? If not, why not? Collusion, corruption, ineptitude, or just plain laziness?
Or do they not realize that they are responsible to all of the Citizens of Brown County - not just developers?
8. I left the Commissioners meeting unconvinced that we, the taxpayers had any guarantee or would have any protection from future financial obligations to the MLPAC.
When will we receive this guarantee? Or will we?
9. Commissioner Anderson's insistence that open public meetings were help - when they were not, leads me to wonder if he is actually knowledgeable about the open door policies.
10. Wake up Citizens' of Brown County, you have little or no representation from your elected officials.