

## GRCC Update

The following information is a general outline of events relative to the sale of the Great River Community Center (GRCC) property that has occurred over the past few weeks.

School buildings and property, in particular the GRCC property, was again an agenda item for the December, 2009, meeting of the Dallas Elementary school board. Following a discussion of the item, action was taken directing the administration to prepare appropriate resolutions and documents for advertisement and sale of the GRCC property. Our school district legal counsel was contacted and the necessary documents were prepared for consideration at the next regular board meeting to be held on January 21, 2010.

Anne Haaker and two of her colleagues from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) visited the GRCC on the morning of January 6, 2009. The three representatives from the IHPA and I toured the buildings, led by Mr. Rodney Norris. Their visit was an effort to provide us with information regarding possible listing of the castle on The National Register of Historic Places. Following the tour I met with the IHPA team, and we discussed the district's position regarding the potential sale of the GRCC property. Ms. Haaker and her colleagues provided input on their impressions of the facilities. They indicated the condition of the buildings is common, and similar to what they have seen in their travels and tours of other buildings of this era. Anne said she would forward additional contact information for other groups that may be able to assist us in marketing of the property. Information regarding IHPA is located on the web at <http://www.illinoishistory.gov/>.

At the January 21, 2010, meeting, the school board adopted a resolution for sale of property for the GRCC facilities. The resolution is located on the district's website, and is being published in the Hancock County Journal on January 24, February 3, and February 10. Also, on the last weekend of January the notice is being published in the Burlington Hawkeye and the Peoria Journal Star. A timeline for the sale of property is found in the resolution.

On January 25, I received a communication from Anne Haaker, containing contact information for Christine Morris at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Midwest (NTHPM) <http://www.preservationnation.org/about-us/regional-offices/midwest/>. After calling and leaving a message at her office, Christine returned my call on January 27. Ms. Morris was very helpful, and from her I obtained information relative to matching grants that are provided by various philanthropic organizations. The matching grants we discussed are mainly for feasibility and alternative use studies for properties such as those found at the GRCC. Applicants for the grants must be not-for-profit tax exempt entities. However, a tax exempt entity, such as a school district or city government, may submit an application on behalf of individuals or groups that do not currently possess a tax exempt designation.

A special school board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2010, for the purpose of considering bids that have been submitted for the GRCC property. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in the elementary school cafeteria. Please contact me with any questions you may have regarding this project.

Jo R. Campbell, Superintendent