

This proposal is to explore the possible use of the Senior Center entrance and foyer as an experimental location for a Welcome Center. The Planning and Promotion Committee has been thinking that the best place for a welcome center location would be in the town center area. For various reasons, using city owned space would be the most practical and economical to use. The Senior Center entrance is in a very good location logistically, and could allow us the opportunity to explore if a welcome center would be successful, without any major changes to the building. It could also be done in a way that could be beneficial to the Senior Center, and not interfere with any of their activities.

The entrance is about 10 ft. x 60 ft. If we were to partition off the entrance and the dining area with a large door or double door, the new entrance going into the Senior Center dining area would be inside the welcome center. This would be the only change needed to separate the two areas. I had proposed that within this area we could locate the Welcome Center and also have space for the Historical Society to display early history of the village. This could also include our history of Indian trading and meeting along the South Fork of the Spring River, and our connection to the Trail of Tears and Military Road within the village.

It would be an excellent opportunity for our seniors to play a part in our welcome center. Their knowledge of the early formation of Cherokee Village during the Cooper Days would be priceless. There could be a table for their puzzles, and sharing their stories would be an awesome addition to the welcome center, and may be something they could volunteer to do.

Including our seniors in helping to improve our community is instrumental in our success.

During our discussion with Legacy Consulting during their March visit, we discussed possible grants for Cherokee Village. Some one mentioned grant money for seniors and there may be grant money for a new senior center. If this was to take place it would free up the entire Senior Center area.

If this were to happen, plans to expand the Welcome Center could possibly include using the office at the back of the welcome center, and expand both bathrooms, with the possibility of having them be public restrooms, with an inside and outside entrance. This would be a great addition to our Festivals, Farmers Market, and Art Center activities. We could use the kitchen and dining area to also aid in city meetings, club meetings, and other events.

I know some of these ideas are a bit of a stretch, but to grow as a community we have to be forward thinkers. We also have to think outside of the box at times.

Kindest Regards, Chuck Kristopeit