ONDOSSAGON REVITALIZATION PROJECT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER: MARCH 2025

PROJECT

The Ondossagon School, in the town of Barksdale, is a cornerstone, both building and entity, that has brought so many surrounding areas together including an involved and nostalgic alumni, a sports powerhouse and the basis for the first few decades of many attendees' lives. The original school was built in 1917 and it served the community for over 80 years graduating well over 1,000 students. Since it closed in the '90s, there have been many proposed uses and discussions about the school's next life.

The most recent proposal by Bayfield County compiled a local team looking at the possibility of utilizing the school for affordable housing as it is sorely needed in the area, would honor the history of the school and those who attended and could utilize a number of grants for funding.

TEAM

The design and development team consists of the owners of the property, Bayfield County, C&S Design, Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency, California Commercial Investment Companies and Northwest Regional Planning. The group originally pursued a $2m CDBG which was not awarded due to the readiness of the project but has since regrouped to look at various opportunities including AHP Funds, Brownfield Grant Money, Earmarked Funds, local fundraising, HOME loans, Clean air and living grant funds through the EPA and low income housing tax credits.

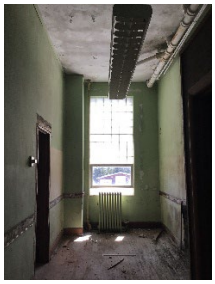
WHO HAVE WE MET?

As we begin the process of waiting for all the right grants, funding and planning to line up, we have met with alumni, neighbors of the property and a few community members which inspired us to create this newsletter to keep everyone informed. It is exciting to share the plans for Ondossagon and we want to keep everyone as updated as possible through the

process as there is a long road ahead, plenty of feasibility discussions and resource securing to be done.

NEXT STEPS

Many grant applications require or give preference to a project that is “shovel ready”, so C&S Design has been reaching out to abatement and cleanup companies because we know lead, asbestos and mold are all present and will need to be taken care of by a professional crew when the time comes. Read a bit more about that process and its importance here. Initial quotes of just over $40,000 have been received for testing alone. This is, however, anticipated to save money in the long run because the specialized team can target areas of concern, and a typical demo crew can do the rest. See a few photos below of the current building condition that has been deemed still structurally sound. If you’d like to learn more about being “Shovel Ready,” you can read this article published by Capital Strategic Solutions.



While there is a lot to be done and it is going to be a long process, our team is hopeful that together, we can find the funds to revitalize history with a new chapter.

To find out more, please use this link (https://www.csdesignengineering.com/ondossagon) or scan the QR code. We have an online contact form if you’d like to get in touch or receive monthly newsletter updates or you are welcome to email Lauren Dahl (lauren@csdesignengineering.com) or Tess Komas (tess@csdesignengineering.com) directly.