

WACC receives grants from Beverly, Initiative foundations

The Pilot-Independent

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In addition to the many local contractors stepping up to help get the Walker Area Community Center (WACC) built with donated labor and materials, the project also received two grants.

The Beverly Foundation gave a grant for \$10,000 and the Initiative Foundation gave one for \$5,000. The Initiative Foundation grant stemmed from the Healthy Communities Partnership, the Initiative Foundation program that created the Walker Area Partners.

Recently, the Walker Area Partners brought the Minnesota Design Team into the community. From recommendations made by the Design Team, the Walker Area Partners, in addition to other efforts, are helping to help make the community center reality.

The community center project is progressing on several fronts. Work is being done by the city of Walker to get the building site appropriately zoned. The road and utilities to serve the center have been engineered. Assessment meetings will begin within the next few weeks.

Through in-kind construction donations and fund-raising, the project continues to make progress toward its goal of securing capital costs and the cost of first year operations. A thorough operations manual and operating budget is nearly complete and should be available for public review at about Thanksgiving.

Though legal issues with the site and zoning have perhaps made excavating the site this fall impossible, the project is still on track to go out to bid this winter, with construction beginning in the spring. For more information, contact WACC Board President Ben Brovold at (218) 547-0033.