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Ad Hoc Dormitory Committee Sticks to Original Idea

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An ad hoc committee charged with developing the basic plans for a Fairbanks dormitory sched-

uled to house 200 rural native students in 1972 stuck by its original concept for a "home-like" facility even though it will be forced to raise an additional one to \$1.5 million in order to

finance such a structure.

The decision was made Friday at a meeting at Alaskaland, Fairbanks, attended by about 30 people.

Represented were the Fair-

banks Native Association, the State Department of Education, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the University of Alaska, the North Star Borough and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Dis-

trict. No one attended for the Arctic Slope Native Association or the Tanana Chiefs Conference, both members of the ad hoc committee.

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Dormitory Committee...

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The Bureau of Indian Affairs has allotted \$1.9 million for the construction of the facility.

However, the structure called for by the ad hoc committee, the BIA has projected, would cost about \$4 million.

So, at the meeting Friday, the ad hoc committee reviewed its specifications for the dorm in search of ways to cut the cost of the proposed facility.

The committee decided that it could not cut the costs down to \$1.9 million and that it would rather not have a dorm than to have what could be provided for that amount.

It did decide, however, to make changes that would bring the cost down to a little over \$3 million while still retaining the "home-like" atmosphere of the facility;

According to Sam Kito, of the Fairbanks Native Association and member of the ad hoc committee, floor space was reduced and the dorm kitchen was eliminated. The group will be looking into the possibility of cooking meals for the students in the Lathrop or Ryan School cafeterias. The dorm is to be located near Ryan Junior High.

For the additional one million dollars needed, federal agencies, foundations, and the state legislature will possibly be approached, he said.

The plans will be drawn, Kito added, with provisions for possible additions so that if more than a total \$3 million is obtained, additions to the dorm can be made.

However, he stressed, the committee definitely decided to go no lower than the \$3 million figure.

Based upon the decision of the committee, the BIA will now make further detailed preliminary drawings for the architect, Kito explained.

The timetable calls for accepting bids on the project in March or early April and completion by September 1972.

Upon completion, the facility will leave the hands of the BIA and come under the control of either the State Department of Education, the North Star Borough, or native organizations or a combination of these. Such a decision will be made by these groups in the near future.

For \$3 million, the committee has planned a facility designed to be "an extension of the home," as much as possible.

The dorm is scheduled to accommodate 192 native boys and girls in grades 9-12 living in rural Alaska where a high school edu-

cation is not available. Currently such students attending high school in Fairbanks live in private homes under the boarding home program.

Students in the dorm are to live in "family units" of 16. For each such unit there will be a living room and a kitchenette. For every 2 units or 32 persons, a laundry room will be provided.

Within each family unit, the young people will be placed two to a room with a bath for every two rooms, thus avoiding mass sleeping and common showers.

For the total dorm population, the facility will contain a linen and sewing room, a lounge with a home-like living room atmosphere, a television lounge, an auxiliary lounge to provide space for private visiting by families of students, a snack bar, a study room-library, an activity room for dancing and other group activities, a student store for the sale of school supplies and toiletries, a hobby room for such as leather work, painting, and model making, a mailroom, a gymnastics room to be used for tumbling, weightlifting, etc., and a two-lane bowling alley.

The dining room is to be designed as one large space divisible into 12 sections with each accommodating 16 pupils—a family unit—to avoid mass eating. In addition, administrative and maintenance facilities are provided.

Present at the Friday meeting were: Tim Wallis, president, and Sam Kito of the Fairbanks Native Association; Cliff Hartman, Commissioner of the State Department of Education; James M. Harper, director of the State Regional Schools and Boarding Home Program; Mrs. Clara Winbush, State Dormitory Supervisor and chairman of the ad hoc committee; John Carlson, North Star Borough Chairman, Dr. George Taylor, superintendent of the North Star Borough School District; Charles Ray of the University of Alaska; several members of the State Board of Education, State Senator Terry Miller, and State Representative Ed Orbeck, both of the Fairbanks districts.

Representing the BIA, were: Bill Long of the Fairbanks office and Henry Rosenbluth of the Division of Instructional BIA Service, Washington, D.C.; Deryl Dick and Howard Nelson, of the Division of Plant Design and Construction, Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Frank Latta of the Division of School Facilities of Albuquerque.