

Greensboro Teen Center Committee

2/3/2009

Dear leader,

As you may know we have been working for many years on a teen center with a skatepark. Like with any business or home venture the location is the most critical factor for its success. All of the partners in this project want this center to be a vital part of our growing downtown reutilization and another strong asset to couple with our Cultural Arts Center, Library, Children's Museum, Historical Museum, Center City Park and all of the other current downtown attractions. As we have meticulously studied both indoor and outdoor options, we have until now not found anything that was ideal. While an outdoor site could be functional, it is obvious that an indoor facility proves far more useful and functional towards offering usability everyday and unlimited potential with a structure to help shape and mould our youth. Our goal with this center is not simply for kids to push the bounds of their abilities and stretch their confidence, we want this to be a safe, positive, and active central hub for a vast array of interesting teenage projects. We would like to incorporate all of the interesting aspects of all teenagers' lives to help them overcome challenges and come together with other youth to grow and learn. The teenage years are the ones with the most opportunity to excel, but also the time that each are faced with challenges of bad outside influences. It is undeniable the horrors of teenagers experimenting with all sorts of controlled substances in all sorts of environments, when left on their own. It's any parents fear and nightmare that their kid gets sucked into the perils of addictive substances and patterns of behavior that are difficult to escape. Our goal as leaders is hopefully to invest and safeguard our most valuable asset, which is our youth. If we can provide this safe, secure, monitored center with a vast array of fun, healthy opportunities for the next generation, it will prove a tremendous asset to our parents, community, and future.

What we hope to incorporate at this site is not only a skatepark, that's just the initial draw, but hopefully also partnerships with Junior Achievement, Greensboro Youth Council, Musical Practice Center, Scouting, Homework Hotlines, and tutoring, reading clubs, various math, science, and engineering teams and competitions, and an unlimited range of interesting things to keep our youth on track, and possibly afford some one-on-one time with possible 'at-risk' teens to help improve their situation and chance of success.

Until now, without a feasible site, we have been unable to solidify a firm vision for what this center can be. We have now found a very interesting building both architecturally and historically, which has all the rough and tough appeal that teenagers enjoy and vintage details that add undeniable charm. However, first and foremost is location. Seated at the southeast corner of East Market Street and Church Street it is perfectly situated between all the center city assets, but on the line between high-class and pricey lots and the hardcore street society whose struggle teenagers sympathize so strongly with. Thus with manageable pricing and still great surroundings, with less potential as becoming a nuisance- the 'noisy neighbor,' and yet still within walking distance to great exhibits of cultural art, park and library access, and even the bus station, this is an ideal location.

Besides the wonderful location, the layout and components of the building also make it a perfect fit. As the old Black Cadillac Car Dealership, it has a grand front meeting area which is perfect for all types of meetings and teen functions as mentioned. The balconies provide perfect observation areas for staff, parents, and even

Greensboro Spotlight315-D Spring Garden StGreensboro, NC 27401

contest judges to enjoy watching and monitoring as well as to facilitate the occasional musical display as resulting from the potential musical endeavors of the center.

The Layout is perfect for a variety of developmental events tailored for teens. The rear mechanics shop section has very high ceilings and no columns, making it ideal for skateboards, rollerblades, and bikes.

While many other city skateparks are outside, our inside location yields year-round use as well as vital bad weather days, in addition to molding opportunities. And with the layout and features of the building as they are, up fit and modifications are minimal. While this building has had a variety of mixed uses over the years, it would be nice to transform the structure into a beautifully unified downtown landmark, like other projects, for the benefit of the entire city.

While we have funds coming available through the parks and recreation bond of past years amounting to nearly \$600,000, we will need to match that amount or more in order to purchase the property and make it into the center that our kids need. With this building we can now try to unify our support and join our ideas and resources into a common vision. We would ask you to join us in our dream of affecting our youth in a positive way. We would greatly appreciate a contribution to our dream in any fashion, be it ideas, input, funding, or simple help and support towards this goal. Please contact us and help us with this great project.

Thanks,

Ryan Routh

(336)852-5651

Teen Center Committee

GSOSkatepark@yahoo.com