



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Community Center/Senior Center Design Team and Advisory Committee MINUTES

Reed Intermediate School, 3 Trades Lane
Tuesday August 22, 2017 6:30 PM

Present: Pat Llodra, Rusty Malik, Curt Symes, Amy Mangold, Kinga Walsh, Larry Passaro, John Deren, Andy Clure, Brian Hartgraves, LeReine Frampton, Marilyn Place, Anna Wiedemann, and Georgia Contois (clerk)

Ms. Llodra opened the meeting, explaining that the PB+S Committee meeting that would follow at 7PM would receive a more in depth presentation as the project moves into their domain. The purpose of the CCSCDTAC meeting was to keep members up to date with any changes and to briefly review budget.

Mr. Malik discussed some adjustments to the SC design after meeting with the SC advisory members. He showed an updated plan with more storage space and a larger store area, separate from the display space. The angle on the arts and crafts room was removed, allowing for a small library space. This floorplan is pending approval at the Board of Selectman meeting on September 5.

Mr. Deren explained that the budget for the overall project is trending over, however not at a concerning rate. He explained the normalcy at this stage, and mentioned reducing steel amounts which will directly help reduce that overage. When the scope for the project gets narrowed, contingencies will often shrink. Mr. Deren is also waiting for boring results which may reduce structure costs. He expects a timeline of 2 weeks for construction documents to be finalized and go to bid, receiving those bids back in late September or early October.

Mr. Symes asked about 'dead areas' for cellular reception and wifi connection. Mr. Malik didn't foresee an issue for the one story building with the exception of the pool area which is surrounded with concrete blocks. Ms. Walsh asked about progress with the Legacy Foundation components. Mr. Malik was not able to connect with Mr. Wheeler yet, but hopes to do so soon.

Debora Sullivan asked for clarification on the pool size and use, explaining that she is just getting involved with the project and was disappointed that a 50 meter competition style pool was not included in the plans. Ms. Sullivan asked why the money from the senior center could not be used for the pool upgrades. She spoke about the potential for income from swim meets. Ms. Llodra explained that the Senior Center funding was a separate action by the Board of Selectman from the GE Grant and CIP funding for the Community Center. Although they will share a building, all costs will be dealt with as two separate projects. It would not be appropriate to swing funds between the two.

Adele Unger used the high school pool as a child and explained that it is still outdated and turns off people from using it. However, the swim time is still very limited due to other programming. She wanted to see a 50 meter competition style pool in the Community Center and thought anything less would be a waste. Ms. Walsh clarified the decision that was made to adjust to a 6 lane 25 meter pool, stating that it took a lot of effort to compromise due to budget restraints. Ms. Unger asked if the town can contribute the extra \$2 Million dollars to add the gutters

and equipment to make it a competition pool. Ms. Llodra mentioned the public forums, meetings and the Planning and Zoning public hearing and how the time period for design changes is already over. She did not think it would be in the best interests for the town to allocate any more funding to the project. The Community Center was a delicate balance between sports, crafts and other needs. Ms. Llodra discussed compromises with programming to make the best decisions for all of the townspeople, some of which did not care to see an aquatics center at all. Ms. Mangold explained some programming changes that will alleviate time at the high school pool.

Tyler Renkert asked if an ROI feasibility study was done for having a competition style pool. Ms. Llodra said yes, and there were mixed results. Mr. Renkert also asked if there was an RFQ or RFP for Caldwell and Walsh. Ms. Llodra said absolutely, and the bidding/awarding process was public as normal.

Tim Sullivan asked why the plans online showed a four lane pool versus the six lane discussed currently. Ms. Llodra said that the six lane pool should be shown on the recent plans posted to the website as it was decided on at a previous meeting. Ms. Walsh suggested that plan drafts are often attached to the minutes of meetings. The latest plans will be uploaded directly to the website.

Ms. Llodra began to wrap the meeting together, stating that the design team has struggled for years to achieve as much as possible with the budget to provide a welcoming space for all members of the community. Ms. Unger asked about installing bleachers or taking space away from meeting rooms. Ms. Llodra said that there was already a compromise in space with the arts groups to allow the two pools. She did not want to take away any more space. Ms. Llodra went on to say that the design is complete outside of minor potential alterations. The project will be at the Board of Selectman meeting of 9/5/17.

Due to impending the PB+S Committee meeting at 7:00PM, Mr. Hartgraves moved to adjourn. Ms. Wiedemann seconded and the CCSCDTAC meeting was adjourned at 7:02PM

*Respectfully Submitted,
Georgia Contois*