

Town of Newtown, CT

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

The Community Center/Senior Center Advisory Committees Design Team held a meeting Monday, May 22, 2017 in shared meeting room 3 of the Municipal Center located at 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470.

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Llodra at 3:30pm.

Present: Rusty Malik of Quisenberry Arqari, Frank Cobelli of Caldwell and Walsh, First Selectman Llodra, Community Center Advisory Committee members: Brian Hartgraves, Andy Clure, Maureen Crick Owen, Carla Kron, Kinga Walsh and Amy Mangold; Senior Center Advisory Committee members Anna Wiedemann, George Guidera, John Bocuzzi, Sr., Barbara Bloom, LeReine Frampton.

Absent: Community Center Advisory Committee members Bill Buchler, Nicole Hockley, Brain Leidlein and David Wheeler.

Design Team recommendations for the community center and senior center municipal projects:

Mr. Rusty Malik presented an overview of the plan thus far which included larger multi-purpose rooms in the community center and a six lane pool as well as more defined patios and more defined parking. Mr. Malik discussed the lobby place holder; there will be further discussion with Ms. Hockley and Mr. Wheeler as this progresses. The advisory committees had suggestions which included labeling areas that are not yet considered part of the plan, but will be included if the budget allows, as 'potential'; organizing a document so that one side has a break-down of community center features and the other has a break-down of senior center features, rather than having them intermingled on one document; and having the community center space and cost separated out from the senior center space and cost. The level of detail and components relative to the pool area will be discussed more at the next design development phase. It was suggested labeling the zero entry pool "activity pool under design" to help clarify to the public. First Selectman Llodra noted there are four project numbers that have to be accounted for separately: the senior center, the community center, the exterior bathrooms and the removal of foundation. Mr. Malik said there is a big difference between project cost and construction cost. The building design maximizes natural lights and incorporates salvaged pieces from previously demolished building on campus. Mr. Malik explained that the PB&S commission is asking that the project be designed and completed in accordance with LEED standards, but that it is not necessary to pursue the application for that status, given the cost and time needed to make application. Further, Mr. Malik expressed that the concepts of sustainability are to be found in many aspects of the design and site plan: use of glass for natural light, pursuit of energy efficient infrastructure and mechanicals, landscaping, and more. The roofs angles and slopes are designed to maximize solar panel for heating. John Bocuzzi, Sr., and others present discussed whether the design under consideration is consistent with existing architecture on the campus. Support for a non-traditional approach was expressed as was preference for a design more in line with existing structures. The point was made that several of the existing buildings will remain and are of a similar architecture: the Municipal Center, the NYA, duplexes, Stratford Hall, Newtown Hall, ambulance garage, for example. Carla Kron pointed out how having different styles will make the campus more attractive and visually interesting. Mr. Cobelli of Caldwell and Walsh pointed out that the design, particularly the differing roof angles and slopes, may well be modified by budget pressure. He reminded the group that the budget ultimately will help to dictate what options are available for design. Mr. Cobelli affirmed that he and John Deren (C&W chief estimator) believe that the budget can accommodate the building plan.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

Submitted, Susan Marcinek, clerk

