



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Community Center/Senior Center Design Team and Advisory Committee

Caldwell & Walsh Building, 17 Berkshire Road

Friday May 5, 2017 11:00 AM

Present: Pat Llodra, Kevin McFarland, Rusty Malik, Anna Wiedemann, George Guidera, Kinga Walsh, Bob Edwards, Phil Clark, Carla Kron, Brian Hartgraves, John Deren, Joe Giacobbe, Amy Mangold, David Amara, Peter Amara and Georgia Contois (clerk)

Mr. Clark began by informing the Committee of the two main concerns from the Public Building and Site Committee. Their opinion is that parking and cost are the two main drivers of the project. Ms. Walsh also asked the Design Team to consider a drop off area, to allow entrance and exit to flow effortlessly. She mentioned the hassle of drop off/pick up at the Newtown Youth Academy after school. The Committee discussed updated plans which had been amended to reflect the Senior Center's needs. This space includes multi-purpose areas, a wellness space, kitchen and a covered patio.

Mrs. Llodra informed the group that the BoS has scheduled a special meeting for May 23 to hear from the design team regarding design recommendations and costs estimation. Comments from the community center advisory and the senior center advisory are welcome as part of that presentation. It is important to get to that step so that the project can be put out to public bid, and then subsequently reviewed in accordance with resources and priorities.

Mrs. Llodra also informed the group that the finance director, the FHA authority chair, and the chair of the PB&S are in agreement that AAIS be authorized to proceed on a phase 2 of the Canaan House project, the demo of the sub-surface foundation. Mr. Clark, member of PB&S, does not agree and stated his concern that the project be re-bid. Mrs. Llodra will have further conversation on this issue with all parties and will report back to the group.

Mr. Malik continued to explain the Community Center (CC) design to the Team, showing 3 consecutive multi-purpose rooms of various sizes. There will be folding dividers to allow for a large area for events. The total space of the three multi-purpose rooms is in excess of 4,000 sq ft. Ms. Walsh read a note from Mr. Wheeler regarding the Legacy Foundation (attached). The letter asks for two things; a dedicated, interactive area to learn about the Legacy Foundation, and a high-tech meeting space with priority to the Legacy Foundation. Ms. Walsh asked if the fourth meeting room (located across from the multi-purpose rooms) could be that designated space. Mr. Malik and Ms. Llodra agreed that it made the most sense.

The Senior Center (SC) will change the layout to an "L" shape. Their space, as Ms. Llodra mentioned, is a nice reflection of the CC. It has similar features and multi-purpose space, as well as a separate entrance and lobby area. Ms. Kron asked about sharing the spaces- specifically using the senior center after hours. Ms. Wiedemann explained that there is a process in place for using the SC space, and they would continue to use that process. Ms. Mangold was asked about the programming that will increased due to more classrooms and gym space. She explained that there will be some new programs as well as more of existing ones.

The Design Team began to talk about a list of wants versus needs. Ms. Walsh expressed her desire to include the vertical dividers instead of the 'accordion fold'. Ms. Llodra mentioned a specific type of door towards the patio that would disappear into the walls, compared to traditional French or sliding doors. Material choices will be very important for many reasons including being compatible with the Fairfield Hills design guidelines. Ms. Llodra said that this discussion would be one of the next steps, and wanted to bring everyone back to the overall design. The Board of Selectmen will receive a design proposal at its meeting of May 23, 2017. The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Georgia Contois