



Town of Trumbull

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MINUTES

Senior/Community Center and Library Study Building Committee March 11, 2015

The Trumbull Senior/Community Center and Library Study Building Committee held their first meeting, on Tuesday, March 11, 2015 at 1:30 pm in the Long Hill Room, 5866 Main Street, Trumbull, Connecticut.

Members Present: Anthony Timpanelli, Joe Pifko, Richard Seaman, Jeannine Stauder, Rachel Yahwak

Members Absent: Daniel Marconi

Also Present – Timothy Herbst, First Selectman, Lynn Arnow, Chief of Staff, John Marsilio, Director of Public Works, Jamie Bratt, Carl Massaro, Chairman Trumbull Town Council, Vicky Tesoro, Cindy Katzke

Ms. Arnow welcomed everyone and handed out Building Committee Rules to committee members. She will be the Town liaison for the committee.

First Selectman Herbst spoke to committee about:

- Research and study other centers, identify priorities, develop a plan.
- Determine essentials; needs vs. nice to have
- What is and is not working in current library and senior center?
- What amenities and programs should a new senior center have?
- Facility cannot outweigh the needs and demands of the community.
- Assess possible locations within the town and make recommendation
- Large numbers of Town seniors use other town senior centers and not Trumbull's.
- The seniors deserve a facility with programming that meets their needs.
- The library of 1973 is different from the library of 2015.
- Meetings are open to the public and all correspondence can be requested under Freedom of Information Act.
- There is currently no funding at this time; the project is conceptual at this time. Any cost below \$15 million requires the approval of Town Council. Any anticipated cost beyond \$15 million amount must go the voters of Trumbull for referendum.
- Committee is an arm of the Town Council and will be required to report to Town Council as requested.

Mr. Marsilio – Goals of committee is to determine “what, how and where” for project and at some point may need to request funds for professional advisement.

- For the “what”, put all suggestions and concepts on the table then determine needs vs wants.
- Visit and study other community centers and make note of what is liked.
- Three parts to this process; budget, schedule and quality of the project.

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- RFQ may be needed in the future for a design team to incorporate all elements of the building; shape, land, electric, water, parking ADA compliance, safety issues, building codes and how all of these can impact the design.
- “What” and “Where” are determining the elements and design of the building, then location site to accommodate design work.

Mrs. Bratt spoke to long term planning – site, parking, lights and sidewalks recommending that the building be accessible by public transportation and, when planning, keep in mind the need for a buffer between the project and nearby residents. A copy of the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and a copy of the “Design Guidelines” from the Town’s Planning and Zoning Commission was given to the committee.

Ms. Stauder mentioned that the library is doing a study and has requested five RFQ’s to determine what the library of the future needs. This may help to determine the space required.

Mr. Massaro explained what the committee is, how it functions and how it reports to Town Council.

- In April, the Town Council will have a resolution to appropriate \$5,000 to cover expenses for clerk and publishing notices. Also the appointment of Co-Chairs for committee. Mr. Massaro recommended that the committee be co-chaired by Joe Pifko and Dan Marconi as they are members of Town Council and can conveniently provide report at TC meetings. Mr. Massaro also mentioned that the committee can also make a recommendation.
- The committee has a duty to report back to the Town Council every three months.
- Need to determine a meeting schedule.

Lynn Arnow shared that one important component of a new facility would be a commercial kitchen; the current Senior Center is a “level one” shelter for the town, and nutrition programs are essential to a senior center.

Mrs. Yahwak –

- Seniors want their own facility; currently, they prefer to share space/programs with other age groups. Note was made that the current Senior Center operates during the week, from 8 to 5. Activities for student programs would take place after 3 or 4 in the afternoon.
- Currently the Center has 600 members.
- Center is open M – F during the day
- Resident yearly fee is \$5.00, non-resident is \$20.00
- Social Services and Arts Commission also share space at Senior Center

Lynn Arnow suggested that the next meeting be held at the Senior Center to allow the committee the opportunity to assess the current space and talk with seniors.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 7th at 3:30 pm to be held at the Senior Center

Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm

Submitted by,

Barbara Whetstone