

MEETING MINUTES

Trumbull Veterans & First Responders Building Committee

Long Hill Room

Wednesday, September, 14 2022, 7:00 pm

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Baldwin at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance

Present:

Ray Baldwin
Dan Sacco
MaryBeth Thornton
Preston Merritt
Michael Lombardo,
Steve Lemoine
Bruce Silverstone

Absent:

Dawn Cantafio

Also Present:

George Wiles, Architect at Wiles Architects
Rina Bakalar, Town of Trumbull Economic & Community Development Director
Graham Bissett, Head of Trumbull VFW
Cindy Penkoff, Susan Stonaha – Members of Trumbull Rotary Club

Public Comment: None.

Presentation by Trumbull Rotary Club regarding a new fundraising event Cindy Penkoff,
Susan Stonaha

Cindy Penkoff from Trumbull's Rotary Club addressed the committee regarding the Wine and Beer Tasting fundraiser that's done every year by Rotary. This year the club decided to designate their fundraiser to help the Veteran's Center. The Trumbull Rotary Club's plan is to raise funds that will go towards buying furniture for the center. Donors can purchase a piece of furniture, such as table, chair, etc., in honor of a veteran and get a plaque in tribute to vets. This fundraiser will take place on Nov. 4 at Vazzy's Four Seasons Restaurant. Tickets are \$50 each and will not go toward the fundraiser. The goal is for people to buy furniture and raffle tickets for TVFR Center. Donors can submit a picture of a vet which will be shown scrolling on large screen during the event. Will also have sponsorships and ads for purchase and 100% of proceeds raised will go toward furniture for center. Information will be on Rotary website and will be distributed for sharing. Ms. Penkoff will look into the possibility of veterans attending for free or reduced cost – will look into sponsorship for this. Graham Bissett should provide a list of veterans interested in attending.

Approval of Minutes from March 9, 2022 Meeting

Moved by Ms. Thornton and seconded by Mr. Merritt to approve the March 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes. **Vote: 7-0-0**

Update from Rina Bakalar on grants and fundraising

Ms. Bakalar stated that a \$750,000 allotment from Feds has been awarded, now must follow process to get the money in-house – it is a complex process.

Still waiting to get the contract for the \$1.5 million grant we received. Ms. Bakalar stated that there is a lot of bureaucratic processing to get funds.

A \$500k request for steep funds has been filed. Ms. Bakalar will send an email to committee members with information so they can make calls.

Ms. Bakalar will research ARPA funds for available. Applications are now on line.

Ms. Bakalar is still looking for other money and said there may be an opportunity to go back to Feds for more money.

Ms. Bakalar and Mr. Baldwin will circle back with M&T bank.

Update from George Wiles on construction & materials costs

Mr. Wiles gave an update on the landscape of construction costs. Mr. Wiles said prices are still very high, although they have leveled off. Supply chain still having problems. Still looking at \$3.2 million in hard costs—bricks & mortar. Furniture, fixtures and architectural fees, testing, inspections—these are all non-hard constructions costs.

Mr. Wiles said we have another location for the septic in northwest portion of property--need to dig test pits.

Engineering Dept. have improved quality of water run-off to Katz Pond.

Mr. Wiles said Public Works Department has been very helpful. Can cut off some of the building costs if we can get contractor to just do building and have Public Works build septic system and parking lot, landscaping – that would be a significant savings. Mr. Wiles recommends developing a phased plan for this.

Discussion by committee on strategy and next steps

Discussion took place on whether to look at moving toward building the center with the money we have by the end of this year or continue to look at raising money for the full cost of the center. A suggestion was to wait until January to see what kind of funds will be available before we decide which way to go.

Mr. Baldwin wants to get Wayne Lasalle to come the next meeting to go over fixture and equipment needs for the building. After the October meeting, Mr. Baldwin suggests putting together a subcommittee to propose a strategy.

Any other business to come before the committee; None.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Sacco and seconded by Mr. Merritt to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.
Vote: **7-0-0.**

Submitted by

Marisa Petriello