



Community Facilities Planning Committee

c/o Falmouth Town Hall, 271 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105, 781-5253

Community Facilities Planning Committee

Meeting Notes Thursday, April 30, 2009

Councilor Breen
Committee Chair

Councilor Pierce

Marsha Clark

Judith Currier

Phil Kaplan

Analiese Larson

Tim O'Donovan

Mark Soule

Steve Tenney

Staff

Lucky D'Ascanio

Albert Farris

Theo Holtwijk

Nathan Poore

Lyn Sudlow

Consultant

Institute for Civic
Leadership

Oak Point Associates

Spatial Alternatives

Committee members present: Councilor Breen, Councilor Pierce, Mark Soule, Steve Tenney, Marsha Clark, Judy Currier

Advisors/Town staff present: Nathan Poore, Lyn Sudlow, Lucky D'Ascanio, Al Farris, Theo Holtwijk

1. Minutes

The minutes of the April 9th meeting were approved upon a motion by Teresa and second by Mark.

2. Review of Draft Keypad/On-Line Survey Conclusions

The Committee reviewed a draft that Mark and Theo prepared. Mark stated that he felt the fire station discussion was off the radar for many people as that was not to be decided by the committee. The committee agreed that it should be clarified that the decision to close or not to close the station was not for the committee to make. If the station were to close then a recommendation on what should be done with the building is expected from the committee.

The committee agreed to move the key findings right to the top to be followed by other the findings. The section on participant demographics would be kept, but moved to the end. The group preferred using a bullet format over a section of text. The group also wanted survey numbers to be included, and any statements that might seem subjective removed.

The reference to the web would be spelled out so people can find it.

It was noted that it should be recognized that this project is as much about the facilities being studied as it is a communications effort.

The committee felt that the term "intergenerational," although very much part of a community center program, should be dropped. The committee wanted to make sure that the pool and post office responses were included.

Mark stated that the focus should not be on adding services, but rather on what the needs of existing services are. Some replied that a pool is included in the draft, but that that did not mean that a pool would be part of the committee's recommendations.

The key conclusions of the survey were summarized. The next steps were reshuffled and somewhat reworded. They will not be in numerical order, but rather bulleted as well.

Next, Theo and Mark will revise the draft per the committee's direction. Cathy will act as final reviewer. Then the draft will be ready for web posting and distribution by committee members.

3. Review of Draft Intergenerational Community Center Program

Lucky reviewed a draft program for a possible intergenerational community center. She stated that she looked forward to an enhanced facility, but what she really needed was additional daytime programming space.

Teresa commented that as some points in the draft were specific that it felt limiting. She felt that the architects the Town hired would figure out how best to accommodate the space needs.

Steve asked about the meeting space need and how that related to what the library was looking for. If the community center provided it, would the library not need it? Marsha and Lyn answered that as a citizen had asked a similar question. The e-mail communication on that topic was distributed.

Teresa felt that a link to actual programs should be included. What do people like to do? Lucky will add that as well as the hours of those programs. It was also noted that the Community Programs created a substantial work training opportunity for teenagers.

Nathan reported on the meeting that he, Amy Lamontagne, and Theo had with Holly McEwan, service learning coordinator at the High School. There was an opportunity to reach out and involve kids as potential users of a possible community center.

Mark stated that he felt the group was way ahead of itself.

There was discussion that the community gathering spaces that existed before were Town hall and the dump. A community center might bring some of that back. Lucky stated that a teen wing, although not listed on the draft, should be included.

Steve mentioned a book "Who Stole My Cheese?" which addressed how to deal with change. (A web link to "Who Moved My Cheese" can be found at http://ee.sharif.edu/~commi/Comm1_files/WhoMovedMyCheese.pdf.) He felt there were analogies with what the committee is working on.

The sense was that the energy with young people as well as seniors for a community center should be tapped. Kids, seniors, parents with young children should be searched out to provide input. A service learning effort in that regard would be a big effort, but could be very helpful. Marsha cautioned the group not to leave out people in the middle group, those in their 40s and 50s.

It was stated that a community center could be fee-based and be a self-supporting entity run by a non-profit organization. The committee should figure out how a community center can be accomplished,

and roll it out carefully. The community center is really a project with the larger facilities project. Perhaps a subcommittee can begin to address some of the details.

Lucky cautioned that the community center should not be an all-or-nothing proposition.

If focus groups were organized, the concern was raised that some might complain that they were not invited. The committee agreed that people should be publicly recruited. "Come one, come all."

4. Outreach Update

Theo stated that he had crafted a new outreach schedule and he encouraged people to let him know of any dates that they were able to establish.

5. Next Steps

It was agreed to invite Holly McEwan to the next committee meeting.

Also at the next meeting the outreach group list would be reviewed.

There was a discussion if Steve should have an informal discussion with his church or not. It was fine for him to do so.

The survey results will be communicated to Peggy Roberts and included in the Council e-newsletter. All participants to the March 12th event will receive a copy.

The contract with Oak Point and its scope of work should be looked at to see if it is still in line with the direction that the committee is taking.

There was a brief discussion about issues around the timing of any funding requests.

6. Next Meeting

The group agreed to meet again on May 21st and June 25th at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Draft meeting notes by Theo Holtwijk, May 13, 2009