

# Rockport Public Library Ad Hoc Planning Committee

## Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2016

### Opening

The meeting of the Rockport Public Library Ad Hoc Planning Committee was called to order at 11:06 am on March 9, 2016 in the Rockport Opera House by Jan Rosenbaum.

\*Note: the AHPLC meetings which occur at the Opera House venue will be televised and recorded using Rockport Live Stream, accessed via the town office link:

<http://livestream.com/Rockportmaine>

### Present

Voting Members: Ann Filley, Jan Rosenbaum, Tracy Murphy, Joe Sternowski, Heather Mackey, and Stephanie Kumble, ex-officio, Interim Library Director, Ben Blackmon.

Absent: Eric Frederick and Eric Denny

Guests: John Scholz, professional advisor; Town Manager, Richard Bates

### Agenda:

Minutes of 02/24/16, accepted

### *Public Information Group Report*

Heather provided an update on the what this subcommittee has accomplished to this date:

- Bookmarks that are available at the library will be updated to include names, dates and times of architects' presentations to the committee.
- The library website has been updated to reflect the presentation times as well
- PR piece will be submitted to the newspapers with similar information, with reminder that the public is welcome to observe.
- The town email has received one question and will be discussed in the public comment section
- Next steps:
  - Invite public to architectural firms' presentations
  - Article opportunity on why a particular firm was chosen and why
  - Follow up on PR opportunity with VS TV

## ***Old Business***

Reports on reference contacts:

- *WSA- Winton Scott- Stevie K. report*
- *Stephen Smith-Jan-not available for this meeting*
- *Stewart Brecher-Erik-not available for this meeting*

Task: **All committee members will summarize references** and submit summary to Jan. Jan will follow-up on Rockland Library's current building issues. Rick will follow-up with Rockland town manager to see if new engineering report is available.

## ***New Business***

### ***Presentation discussion:***

Jan handed out the List of Considerations that also been provided to the presenters. These considerations will be important as the process moves forward. Also distributed was a 2-page document, Approaching Phase 2 Presentations, which lists important areas to keep in mind as the committee listens to the firms. Keeping in mind the big picture, rather than the nuts and bolts of design. Who can the committee recommend that has the best vision for Rockport? Which firm do we want to/can work with for the next two to three years?

Committee members should come prepared with some specific questions, based on the RFQ as well as be prepared to ask questions that arise from the presentations themselves.

Joe has provided the committee with an evaluation form to help in this process. These will be available at the time of the presentations.

***Further discussion*** centered around the June ballot initiative and what would happen if the lot limitation petition passed. It is important that the committee keeps the process going and don't lose momentum and remember that at this phase we are selecting an architect, not a plan.

The committee will need to discuss a public relations campaign with professional help and effective messaging as this process moves forward.

Questions continue to come up with exactly how big (number of square feet) the library will be. Until such time as the AHLPC has a building plan, we can do no more than refer to the approved mission statement of 8,750 of usable (program) space. Without an architectural plan, and what lots are used, it remains a question at this point.

Another concern is the costs of a new building vs. a remodel of the old library. It must be made very clear to the public that the old building cannot be remodeled as it stands, it would be an almost complete rebuild. Does the town really want to rebuild the same small library for the same costs of a new library?

The committee also continues to get questions on why not the RES site, and the answer is that the select board has only approved the two lots (memorial park and 1 Limerock) for the building of a new library.

These can be considered as public comments and should be added to any Q & A going forward.

### ***Public Comment***

One question came through the Library Planning email:

Could you share the list of architects who will be making presentations on March 16 and 17? Thank you for all the work you've done and will continue to do to make our new library a wonderful community resource.

This email was responded to by Ann Filley.

### **AHLPC Meeting schedule examination**

- March schedule
  - 03/16/16 11:00 am Architect's presentations to AHLPC
  - 03/17/16 11:00 am Architect's presentations to AHLPC
  - 03/23/16 11:00 am regular meeting
  - 03/24/16 7:00 pm presentation to SB

### **Committee Tasks:**

- Jan will proceed with reference checks for Steve Smith
- Joe make suggested changes to grid evaluation and submit to Jan
- Reference summaries should be completed and submitted to Jan
- AHLPC members should come prepared with questions for presentations

### **Adjournment**

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm by Jan Rosenbaum. The next meeting(s) will be at 11:00 am on March 16, 2016, and March 17, 2016 in the Rockport Opera House, meeting room.**

Minutes submitted by: Ann Filley Approved by: Committee 03/23/2016