

Rockport Public Library Ad Hoc Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2016

Opening

The meeting of the Rockport Public Library Ad Hoc Planning Committee was called to order at 11:00 am on April 27, 2016 at the 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; Heather Mackey; Eric Denny and Stephanie Kumble; ex-officio, Library Director, Ben Blackmon. John Scholz, advisor.

Absent: Joe Sternowski; Erik Frederick

Guests: Reed & Co. architects' Dick Reed and Cynthia Loebenstein; Mike King of Mitchell & Assoc.; Will Gartley, of Gartley and Dorsky Engineering.; Town Manager, Richard Bates; members of the public.

Announcements:

Jan mentioned that the library and Memorial Park sites would be walked by the committee after the presentations and that public comment would be taken at the end of the presentations.

Minutes of 04/20/2016, accepted

- The Public Contact sub-committee is continuing to work on press releases on updated information for the website and handouts.

New Business: Reed & Co.

The goal of the meeting is to review site design, provide feedback, have a parking discussion, and look at an additional 2 story building concept and the merits of both the 2 and 3 story building.

Mike King presented several options for the Memorial Park site. The first option with on street parking had some challenges. However, the design does not change regardless of whether the building was two or three stories. Some questions focused on the side walk on Central street could be as shown on the plan, perhaps not, but could be solvable. Option two identified off street parking, which would have a larger impact on the green space of Memorial Park, as well as impacting neighboring houses. In option two, 25 to 30% of the green space may be impacted. Option 3 closed off Limerock, which might be better for pedestrians and provide more parking space, but has cost limitations. One option might for DOT street improvement grants, however, more would have to be part of the plan, than initially determined. Diagonal spaces for parking was part of the discussion and not available for the option one scenario. More discussion would be tabled until the committee walked the park site.

Discussions then moved to the building and comparison to the 2 and 3 story building and what would have to be cut to provide the required programing to the community. Either building space would have the same footprint. The third level would be available for expansion. With elevators and stairs positioned for the third story. The second story option reduces the space to 8,100 feet total, which is a significant reduction in the original charge of the committee of 8,750 of usable space. Another meeting will be scheduled so that all members have a chance to review the proposals and speak with the library director regarding those proposals.

The committee moved to the park and library sites to get a better idea of the impact on Limerock street, the park and discuss accessibility.

After returning to the opera house, the committee asked that Reed & Co. provide approximate costs for option 1 and option 1A, a new option. Option 1A would add what it would take for correcting the intersection and still keeping Limerock as a two-way street. That information will be provided to the committee at a later meeting, once drawings and estimates have been researched.

The next regular meeting is still scheduled for May 11* at 11:00, but committee members will be asked to participate in a building discussion at some point in the following week in preparation. ***Note-this meeting did not take place due to scheduling conflicts**

Public comment

- Concerns of the look and character of the park-against off street parking
- What will the building look like-not available until programming design has been approved by committee
- What can be done to improve the safety of the intersection of Limerock, Central and Union?

- Comment that Maine library statistics are available on line

Take away/next steps

- Determine dates and times of public presentations
- Confirm May and June meeting dates
- Reminder that Jan R. will be gone for the next four weeks

AHLPC Meeting schedule

- May 11 11:00 am Rockport Opera House
- May 25 11:00 am Rockport Opera House

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm by Jan Rosenbaum. The next meeting will be May 11, 2016 at 11:00 and located at the Opera House.

Minutes submitted by: Ann Filley

Approved by: Committee