

Community Center Feasibility Study Task Force

Minutes of August 25, 2022 - Held on Zoom only

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK
Jennifer Hejny
SEP 25 10:45 AM

Members Present: Fritz Luft, Andrea Reed, Bonnie Campbell-Runyon , Alice Van Oot, Jamie Balliett, Keith Campbell, Tracy Murphy

Members not in attendance: Steve Kaser

Guests: David Eisen, Devlin Kenny

Meeting called to order by the Chair Fritz Luft at 4:30 PM

Motions Made:

Motion to approve minutes of the last meeting: Andrea; second Bonnie. Approved unanimously.

Fritz announced that the Select Board has approved extension of the charge and appointments until the end of October.

Workshop Findings: The group debriefed the Community meeting.

Key points made:

- There was agreement that the event was well run and quite well attended. It was mentioned that not enough families were in attendance but there was agreement that there was an impressive number of families given the population and time the event was held. Fritz noted that 41% of the people in attendance had school age kids, a good number considering the demographics of the town.
- Members noted they were energized by the event and that overall energy in the workshop was high.
- The concept of an integrated multigenerational facility scored highly with a fair number of participants suggesting multigenerational with a special emphasis on kids (esp. tweens)
- A key takeaway was that residents felt that in addition to providing space for specific programs, a community center should generate a feeling of community.
- Member comment: Identifying areas on a map of the town that would not be acceptable for a community center would have been helpful and would have saved time. However, some of the ideas were different and refreshing.

Discussion around what should be included as the data package for David as he is formulating his report:

survey responses; community meeting input; reports of visits and review of town facilities. Fritz will capture the assumptions that were previously made by the Task Force and integrate them into the final report. David suggests that these become conclusions and they are included with the data from the meeting.

- At the next meeting, the team will review these assumptions.

David presented a summary of the community meeting as well as a summary of conclusions and recommendations for the report which he will create. There was significant discussion about this summary of key points with some recommended edits.

- David believes that it is key for someone to be in charge of keeping this initiative alive and pushing on procurement of the required land. Andrea explained that the Planning Department is given a list of land requirements for various building projects which are their responsibility to procure. The community center will be added to that list.
- A key recommendation is that the town hire a "community life" coordinator or director in advance of building a community center. This person would drive creation and management of expanded art and recreation programming using facilities already in place in Orleans such as schools, the library or other facilities. Also, would create an integrated schedule across programs and an integrated website. Relative to the community center: The efforts of this individual would build the human infrastructure that would eventually "own" and manage a community center. Their efforts would provide history of programming and building use upon which an eventual community center would be built. Fritz asked that David integrate this into the report. That person should be passionate and a true believer.
 - Bonny noted that the Cultural District Committee has already been suggesting creation of a Community Life Director.
 - Andrea noted that the specifics of defining and creating such a position will wait until completion of current Recreation Dept. feasibility study, due soon.

- Andrea asked that the final report and presentation NOT include mention of likely COA flooding as a result of sea water rise but rather concentrate on the many benefits of combined, multi-generational facility.

Alice noted that the team hasn't addressed identifying/estimating operational costs including maintenance and operations of a facility, staffing including management and instructors as required by the charge. Andrea suggested that budgets from Harwich and Chatham can be used to estimate operating costs.

Should we do a video of the presentation?

Schedule for completing the work of the Task Force: David and Devlin are working now and making progress for the final report. Fritz has updated the task list to include key dates. Final report to John Kelly on October 5th and anything else that is needed for the Select Board packet. Select Board presentation on October 12. Then a final meeting of the Task Force to wrap up. Andrea noted the constraints of the Select Board and the time constraints of the meeting with them. We should plan on 10-15 minutes total; 10 minute presentation with 5 minutes of Q&A. Fritz and David will structure the presentation with this in mind.

- **During our presentation to the Select Board, what should our ask be?**

Next meeting: Monday September 19th @ 4:30.

Motion to adjourn: Jamie, second Andrea. Unanimous.