

Town of Ridgefield
Citizen's Committee Special Meeting
Former Schlumberger Property

Town Hall Lower Level Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT
06877

June 22, 2015 7:30 pm

Meeting Minutes Approved

Policy: Citizen's Committee meetings will be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order with comment invited only on agenda items that are action items not subject to formal public hearing. Individuals will be recognized for three minutes after Citizen's Committee discussion but before Citizen's Committee vote. All items on agenda are presented as possible action items (vote) by the Citizen's Committee.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Public comment
3. Initial review of RFQs
4. Impressions from property walk-through
5. Agreements from the June 10 BoS meeting
6. Charter easement from Sunset Lane
7. Communication Strategy
8. Public comment analysis from last year's meetings
9. Review of Minutes
10. Next Steps
11. Adjourn

Present: R. Larson, T. O'Connor, J. Zawacki, A. Behymer, E. Burns, E. Tyrrell, L Hanley, D. Daughters, M. Miller

1. Call to Order

Mr. Larson called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

2. Public comment

There was no public comment.

3. Initial review of RFQs

Eight RFQ responses were received. Each RFQ was discussed and three were selected for further interview. Mr. Larson will confirm an interview schedule for a single meeting on a Monday in July.

Motion: A motion to interview three leading RFQ candidates (M&M, Dodson and Flinker and the Yale Urban Design Workshop) was set forth by Mr. Daughters at 8:45pm. Ms. Hanley seconds. Motion passes 9-0.

4. Impressions from property walk-through

Initial impressions of the property were discussed. Mr. Larson stated that he liked the property and thought it had significant potential. Mr. Tyrell states that he thought the property has difficulties, including the town buildings across Old Quarry Road which do not present a good view from the property. Mr. Behymer thought the Skydome building had some potential while others thought it might detract from the value of the property.

5. Agreements from the June 10 BoS meetings

Mr. Larson summarized the results of the meeting with the BoS on June 10, which was attended by Mr. Tyrell, Mr. O'Connor, Ms. Hanley and Mr. Larson. He stated that the Board agreed that the Citizen's Committee can look at options different than the use of the PJB as a Sendak Museum but also would want an option that includes the Sendak Museum. The Board agreed that the Citizen's Committee can look at alternative uses of the Skydome building, including demolition. Mr. Tyrell noted that the Board liked the timeline developed by the Citizen's Committee

6. Charter easement from Sunset Lane

Mr. Larson reviewed the potential easement restriction to the Schlumberger property driveway access from Sunset Lane. The current direction is to limit Town use of the driveway to emergency access only to limit traffic on Sunset Lane. Multiple viewpoints were expressed by the Citizen's Committee that, at this point, the original Town request for unrestricted access to the Schlumberger property be maintained until the Citizen's Committee finished their recommendations in the spring 2016. Traffic considerations would be included in their final recommendations. By unanimous consent, the Citizen's Committee recommended that the chairman discuss/clarify this issue with Betty Brosius.

7. Communication Strategy

Mr. Larson reviewed the Communications Strategy and suggested that we include the Consultant's ideas before proceeding too much further. Mr. O'Connor expressed concern that the Committee should not target specific organization, due to a potential negative reaction from organizations that may have been missed. Mr. Larson noted that this concern may be alleviated by the type of communications that the Committee implements. Ms. Hanley noted that people's opinions may not always be represented in public meetings. Mr.

Daughter's noted that the League of Women's Voters identified a housing issue that was important to many Ridgefielders but not reflected in total in the public meetings. The Committee by unanimous consent agreed that general public media communications should continue while we work further on more specific types of communications, in coordination with the Consultant. Mr. Tyrell and Ms. Burns agreed to develop a short version of the public relations release appropriate for electronic and print media.

8. Public comment analysis from last year's meetings

Mr. Larson reviewed the analysis from last year's public meetings. Various members noted that the referendum results were sometimes different than the consensus in the public meetings and the need for a broad communication strategy continues.

9. Reading of Minutes

The minutes from the May 22 were approved, with three corrections.

Motion: A motion to approve the May 18 minutes was set forth by Ms. Burns at 9:22 pm. Mr. Rydell seconds. Motion passes 9-0.

10. Next Steps

No additional Next Steps were noted.

11. Adjourn

Motion: A motion to adjourn was set forth by Mr. Tyrell at 9:42pm. Mr. Behymer seconds. Motion passes 9-0.