

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

Town Hall Small Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

May 18, 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. Discussion with Sendak Museum Exploratory Group
 4. Review of property spending
 5. Discussion of ideas from last year
 6. Update on RFQ
 7. Communication strategy
 8. Review of points for the next BoS meeting
 9. Reading of Minutes
 10. Next Steps
 11. Adjourn
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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 were no public comments.

3. Discussion with Sendak Museum Exploration Group

J. Mathy and A. Greeley from the Sendak Museum Exploration Team reviewed the Team's approach to develop a feasibility study for using the PJB and Auditorium for the Sendak museum. They expect a preliminary report to the BoS in June and final report in

September. At that point a larger committee may develop a more detailed plan. If the project proceeds, full development of the museum could take 6-8 years. Funding will be a key component. Both the Museum Team and the Citizen's Committee agreed that one project affects the other project and both will need to work closely together.

Mr. Larson reviewed the Committee timeline and recommended that the Committee ensure that the Sendak Team options are included in public sessions. He also stated that other options for the potential museum buildings may arise in the project but that none have so far. Mr. Tyrrell stated that the Committee may have to make two recommendations for use of the PJB and auditorium.

Ms. Burns suggested that the Committee get more clarity on the potential Museum footprint.

Several others suggested that the Committee obtain a better map outlining the Charter acreage vis a vis the 30 acres under the Committee's charge.

4. Review of property spending

Capital expenditures and operating costs were reviewed. Mr. Daughters suggested that the capital projected costs may grow, which could impact the direction recommended by the Committee. Mr. Behymer said analysis should include financing costs. Mr. Larson stated that potential tax revenues from any options identified by the Committee should also be evaluated.

Ms. Burns suggested that demolition of the library be delayed for several months while the Committee holds public input meetings. Mr. Larson agreed to contact Mr. Marconi to see if that is possible.

Mr. Breymer agreed to request more information from finance regarding the appraisal/development plan.

5. Discussion of ideas from last year

Mr. Larson suggested that the list of options from last year for the 30 acres was insufficient because it lacked detail and was not sure all ideas were listed. He proposed that a template including date of meeting, speaker, topic and detail be developed in Excel extending at least back 2 years. The Town would support this with summer interns. By unanimous agreement the Committee agreed to pursue this option.

Mr. Tyrrell stated that the Committee should ensure that the Committee includes all ideas from the public meetings before moving forward with recommendations.

6. Update on RFQ

Mr. Larson stated that the RFQ was edited by himself and Mr. Brehmer and posted on the Ridgefield website on May 12. Four significant changes were made to the original draft: two services were added, the language involving the PJB Building and auditorium was edited to reflect the same language as the Charge, the cost limits were clarified that proposals could exceed \$32k but reasons would need to be documented, and the timeline was adjusted to reflect a Consultant decision by the end of July.

7. Communication strategy

Mr. Larson suggested that the Committee would need to have an extensive communication strategy to fully engage the Ridgefield residents. All on the Committee agreed. Mr. Daughters, Ms. Hanley and Mr. Larson will develop a communications plan to present to the full Committee.

The Committee agreed to develop a press release for the Ridgefield Press. Mr. Tyrell will develop a first draft, Ms. Burns and Mr. Larson will provide input. The release will be sent to the Press May 28.

The Committee, by unanimous consent, agreed that all future communications would be presented to the full Committee unless agreed otherwise.

8. Review of points for the next BoS meeting

The Committee, by unanimous consent, agreed to propose an agenda item for the June 10 BoS meeting. Items to include the meeting with the Sendak Museum team, the notion that options to the Sendak Museum may arise in the Committee project, the Committee changes to the RFQ, the Committee Communications Strategy, the potential for delaying destruction of the Schlumberger property and discussion of the capital budget for the Schlumberger property.

9. Reading of Minutes

Notes from the May 7 and May 18 meeting will be reviewed in the June meeting.

10. Next Steps

The Committee will request a walk-through of the Schlumberger property on Saturday, May 30 with Mr. Marconi at 10 am.

11. Adjourn

Motion: A motion to adjourn was set forth by Ms. Hanley at 9:28pm. Mr. Behymer seconds. Motion passes 9-0.