

Library and Community Center Facility Meeting Minutes
Meeting #27

Meeting date: February 1, 2024 at 5 pm.

In attendance: Sandy Weisman, Chair; Jan Gaudio, Vice Chair; Marcia Turner; Catherine Lerne; Kate Clark; Candace Smith (5:50 pm arrival); and Zander Shaw, Architect.

Absent: Moira Paddock

Also in attendance, members of the public: Pennie Alley; Ginny Slawson; Denise Rzenznikiewicz; Gabe Tomasulo; via zoom: Sandra Wallace; Sally Merchant and Paul DiMaggio.

1. S. Weisman called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.
2. Adjustments: It was agreed that the committee would move through the agenda until the arrival of Zander Shaw, at which time the committee will move to item 4a: Presentation with architect Zander Shaw.
3. C. Lerne moved to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2024 meeting, seconded by J. Gaudio. Vote: 4 in favor, 1 abstention (K. Clark was not present at the January 4, 2024 meeting).
4. Old Business

Committee work

1. Board of Directors report: S.Weisman presented the report for the Board of Directors, sharing that at the last meeting, held 1/22/24, the BOD had raised approximately \$6,000 thus far. Although the 501c3 status is in place, we have not yet received official approval from the IRS. B.Reitz has reached out to Chellie Pingree's office to see if there is an opportunity to expedite the process. Despite this, donations can be received and money allocated for projects at this time. Some of the funds have been earmarked already for start-up costs and to hire Zander Shaw for the initial stage of the project. Further expenditures, on items such as a logo, stationery and a membership to Little Green Light, will be discussed at the next meeting. Also at the next meeting, the BOD will vote on the possibility of changing the bylaws in order to add a 7th member to the Board. The BOD has seen the draft of the case statement and John Spear has provided some thoughts and edits, which J. Gaudio incorporated into the draft he shared with the committee tonight.
2. Case Statement: J.Gaudio shared an updated draft of the case statement. All members of the committee were encouraged to look at the document and much of the March meeting will be dedicated to workshopping the statement in order to finalize the draft.

3. Grant Research: C. Smith was not present at the time of this report, but S. Weisman was able to share that C. Smith has developed a data base of grants and contact information, which was reiterated later in the meeting by C. Smith.. At this research stage, no grant applications will be developed. The committee is eager to hear from members of the South Thomaston community who have an interest in, or experience with grant writing and who might be willing to volunteer some time and skills when it comes time to begin writing grants. C. Lerme inquired about whether or not the team has been using a service to search for grants and S. Weisman shared that she and C. Smith are currently using a free government listserve as well as a paid subscription to Grant Watch.
4. Data Management: C. Lerme has attended instructional webinars in using and managing Little Green Light software. The tech support seems robust as the software does seem a bit robust. J. Spear, R. Nordstrom and C. Lerme will be meeting next week to further discuss the software.

Alexander Shaw:

5. By the time the committees got finished with their reports, A Shaw had arrived. A Shaw gave a brief overview of his career, which includes architectural projects on schools, libraries, high rise buildings and residential homes. Of note, A Shaw has worked on the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, as well as the Ash Point School in Owls Head and AIO in Rockland.
6. A Shaw explained that he has been hired thus far to complete Phase I of the project, which will result in digital 3D renderings that the committee can use to inform discussions during the committee's pre-capital campaign.
7. J. Gaudio affirmed that he felt that A Shaw understood the key components of the committee's vision. C. Lerme asked questions about the 3D rendering and A Shaw showed examples of renderings he had used in past projects. G. Tomasulo provided some context into the work that had already been done and A Shaw shared that he felt he had enough information to begin the work. He also encouraged the committee to send him questions or information as things came up.
8. It was agreed that A Shaw would have draft renderings to present to the committee at the next meeting, which was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2024.

5. New Business
 - a. S. Weisman shared a capital campaign outline that she created from her research. We are still early in the process, working simultaneously on the feasibility study and some campaign planning.
 - b. S. Weisman also shared a draft statement she has written for the Town Report outlining the work of the committee. All committee members are encouraged to read the report and provide S. Weisman with feedback.
6. Public Comments: P. Alley asked if the committee members had received and understood the expense report for the current library created by J.Spear. As it turns out, only S. Weisman and J. Gaudio have received the report, they will send a copy to other committee members. P. Alley stated that she did not agree with the figures and that the overall cost of running the library may have been inflated on this document due to one-time purchases, some of which were paid for through Library fundraising.
7. Items for next agenda:
 - a. Zander Shaw: 3D renderings
 - b. Workshop case statement
8. Next meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 5 pm.
9. C. Lerme moved to adjourn, which was seconded by M. Turner. Vote: 6-0 in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Clark