

Waterbury Long Term Community

All-Champions Meeting

April 15, 2013

Minutes

Present: B. Washburn, W. Shepeluk, T. Wood, S. Flanders, S. Lotspeich, M. Bard, K. Fountain, M. Monley, M. Luce, R. Ellis, E. Loomis, B. Farr, N. Howell, L. Scagliotti, M. Callan

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm by N. Howell.

At 5:34pm, B. Washburn made a motion to approve the minutes from 4/1/13. This motion was seconded by N. Howell and passed unanimously.

Hunger Mountain Children's Center (HMCC) and Across Roads Center for the Arts (ARCA) provided the group with updates on the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Board review meeting on April 4.

HMCC had applied for, and was awarded, \$450,000. While they had applied under urgent need, the group was awarded the full amount under low-to-moderate income requirements. This funding covers renovations only, not the purchase of the building. HMCC may need to borrow to purchase the building. The total cost of Hunger Mountain's project is estimated to be about \$700,000. HMCC is required to complete an environmental review.

ARCA re-applied for CDBG-DR funds. The group requested \$50,000, which was \$10,000 less than their original requested amount. The application was deemed to be ineligible as the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) rules recently changed and no longer funds organization capacity portions of projects. This new requirement was made aware to ARCA at the April 4 meeting.

The Municipal Civic Complex CDBG-DR implementation grant application was submitted on Thursday, April 11. The town is requesting \$1 million to help fund the construction of the planned Municipal Civic Complex. This application will be reviewed at the CDBG-DR's Board review meeting on May 9. A working group has been formed and as of their meeting last week, the budget for the project is \$7.802 million. A maximum bond of \$5 million is desired. The Municipal Civic Complex working group will meet every other week until details are finalized. The group is currently looking at ways to reduce the cost of this project and will examine using all potential second floor space; eliminating parking under the building; and possibly not using rounded architectural features in the back of the building and maybe having rounded elements in the entry space. The police department is also planned to be on the left wing of the building instead of the right.

A discussion was held regarding bonding for the Municipal Civic Complex project.

On May 7, Library Commissioners will meet with Christine Graham to talk about the Library's fundraising campaign. Graham is a fundraising consultant for nonprofits. Lisa Scagliotti suggests the Library visit the Vermont Community Foundation's website for additional information on sources of funding.

The Friends of the Municipal Civic Complex will likely meet after April vacation. The intent is to get the positive word and message out to combat the negative messages that are floating around. One point to emphasize is that we are sensitive about the cost, but we also care about what we'll get. Barb Farr will post a Municipal Civic Complex project update every

few weeks on Front Porch Forum. Someone mentioned that maybe the next public meeting could be held at the Library to illustrate how much we need a new library!

The Little River-Village Connector Trail project is waiting for a grant agreement from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. In the meantime, champions are finalizing the Request for Proposals, which can be advertised. We cannot sign a contract with a consultant before we receive the grant agreement, though. Those working on this project will also work towards assembling an advisory committee.

Regarding the Community Image Building/Market Retail project, “uncommonly” is lying low for the time being. Project champion Laura Parette has been getting requests from businesses to help change their letterhead, so the community will be noticing this in near future. Tripp Muldrow has been selected by State to assist seven Vermont communities with planning in June. Leanne Tingay will hopefully attend an upcoming LTCR meeting to describe the menu of services that Tripp’s crew can offer. Services need to be meaningful to us. Can they help with communication in terms of the Municipal Civic Complex and creating positivity (transformation, the bigger “why”) around it?

Friends of the Municipal Civic Complex could have a table at the farmers market to provide the community with more information. Maybe the Digital Vermont services could help disseminate information also?

Each LTCR meeting the group can decide on one fact about the Municipal Civic Complex to post on Front Porch Forum, in the Waterbury Record, on WDEV, etc. Becca Washburn suggested this could effort could also include weekly press releases, frequent Facebook posts and updates, detailed information on the municipal website, and weekly blurbs in the Record, to name a few. The municipal website needs to be enhanced right away.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by R. Ellis at 6:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Loomis, VISTA

Approved on: May 6, 2013

Upcoming meetings:

- Pomegranate Center Steering Committee: April 16 at 7:00pm, Steele’s Block, 2nd floor
- LTCR Steering Committee: May 6 at 5:30. Location TBD
- Select Board: May 6 at 7:00pm, 2nd floor of Main St. Fire Station