

Meeting Notes from *Fairbank Community Center Task Force*

Date: **February 12, 2013**

Location: Lower Town Hall (available on Sudbury TV as well)

Task Force Members in Attendance	Others in Attendance
Bob Armour (SPS School Committee) Bob Haarde (Sudbury Board of Selectmen) Jim Kelly (Sudbury Facilities Director) Jack Ryan (Sudbury Council on Aging) Bob Stein (Sudbury Finance Committee) Dick Williamson (Sudbury Park and Rec Commission)	None

Agenda / Discussion Items

- Main focus of the meeting was to review and refine the recommendations report to the board of selectmen. This was completed with edits made to the document during discussion in the meeting. (Note Jim printed the report and provided it to the selectman later than evening with Jack taking the lead in presenting the Task Force's findings)

Decisions / Follow-up Items

- Motion to approve the final report to the selectman made by Bob A; Second Jack. After discussion during which Jim reiterated his belief that the existing building would find good use for an extended period of time, the Task force voted 6-0 to approve the report.
- Motion to approve minutes from the prior meetings was made by Bob A; Second Jack. After brief discussion with regard to additions to 1/29 meeting notes (Note changes have been made to that document), notes from the prior 4 meetings were approved 6-0.
- Motion to add members to the task force (Note the task force also recommended in its report that the task force continue indefinitely) was made by Dick; Second by Bob A. Discussed specifically adding Joe Sziabowski, John Porter, Rick Johnson, and Sarah Troiano. Task Force voted to 6-0 to recommend those 4 additions.
- Motion to Dave L.'s letter to the minutes made by Dick and seconded by Jack. Task force voted 6-0 to do so. (Note that letter is appended to this document).
- Motion to adjourn by Dick; Second by Bob. Voted 6-0 to do so.

January 24, 2013

Dear Jack,

I'm sorry I can't participate more in the work of the "Fairbank Committee". I think I have a "Larger" vision of a Sudbury Community Center than most people; much more than just a larger version of the combined current Senior Center and Fairbank Community Center.

It is true that each of the current programs is limited, and deserves more and better spaces in order to properly serve our Town and our citizens. But a true Community Center can and should be much more.

My vision would have, at the entrance, a large open area; you could call it an arcade, or a mall, or, better yet, a village. It would be a bright, welcoming area where anyone would feel comfortable sitting around, maybe waiting for a friend or family member. You could get a soft drink, a sandwich or coffee; there would be comfortable tables.

From there you would enter that various areas where classes, studios, and sports activities take place, but nearby would be all or some of the following, which are not part of either of the present facilities:

1. A health facility, perhaps run by Parmenter. In addition to providing the kinds of health services that seniors and athletes need (blood pressure, flu shots, podiatrists, physical exams for sports, this could also be a mini-clinic such as CVS and Walgreen are developing. Everyone would know that this is a convenient place to come for scrapes and bruises, aches and pains, etc. This could be a very attractive (and self-supporting!) community asset.
2. A gift shop, where local crafts are sold. Lincoln and Wayland each have such shops that operate independently and at no cost to the town. The Sudbury Art Association has shown that we have loads of talented local artists and craftsmen who could run and benefit from such an outlet.
3. A Reading Room, hopefully including a Goodnow Library desk, where folks could order and/or pick up books; an inviting area to sit around and catch up with current newspapers and magazines.
4. A Credit Union Office. Every bank in the world seems to want to open an office in Sudbury, and yet we hide our very own Credit Union in a back office at the Flynn Building. It should be easy to price out a car-loan, or a home-improvement loan from our own non-profit credit union.
5. An Art Gallery area. This could be a very flexible activity, using available wall space and perhaps movable panels. The display area at the Goodnow is fabulously successful, so much so that there is usually a years-long waiting list for artists wishing to display their work.
6. A mini-museum. Our Historical Society has a wealth of wonderful Sudbury artifacts that are usually hidden away. Once the Town Hall is re-designed, there will be a need for a place for our history to be shared.
7. One or two retail shops. These could be seasonal places for parents to swap out-grown kids stuff, special holiday shops, athletic gear swaps, areas for Sudbury and L-S team-wear. One attractive area that Needham has perfected is a local "Goodwill" Shop. The Needham shop is very popular, run by volunteers, and MAKES MONEY!
8. Offices. Our Town Nurse should be here, perhaps in the facility listed above. Also it should be easy for folks to find our Veterans Agents, Town Social Worker and probably others. Bringing these direct-service professionals to an open and inviting environment should make their work easier, more enjoyable, and more valuable.

Jack, very little, if any of this is directly within the mission of your committee, and I realize you all have plenty of challenges. However this is pertinent to your work in one way: if the Committee thinks that some or all of these ideas are worth consideration, it should suggest that the planning process which I expect you to recommend should be very comprehensive; not a one-shot expansion of the existing, but a plan for the future. I hope that the planning process you all recommend will consider all these possibilities, as well as assessing the town's need for the performing arts, both music and drama.

Regards to all

Dave Levington