

MINUTES

Taylor Library Building Committee

October 2, 2018

4:30 PM

Conference Room A – Kittery Town Hall

Attendees

Kendra Amaral

Matt Brock

George Dow

Dianne Fallon

Jeff Thomson

Patty Moore

Roger Cole

Jan Lamont-Rodonets

Absent

Lee Perkins

Barry Fitzpatrick

Approval of September 4th minutes

Discussion – Taylor Building Surveys/History

The Taylor building has a recorded site plan that was completed at the time of the mortgage issuance in 1989, so there is no need to complete another survey.

The architects that will work on the Rice building will do a thorough site plan for the project.

Lee Perkins did a review of over 30 years of minutes and has put together a comprehensive history of the Taylor building, which is available in the committee Dropbox.

Public Input on Taylor Building Uses

Background

The committee discussed the likely timing and process for the library project in its entirety. The general plan is for a bonding vote in November, 2019 with ground-breaking in Spring 2020. It is projected that the Taylor building will no longer be needed by the Fall of 2021.

It was also discussed that the disposition of the Taylor building is a fluid plan which may depend on market conditions and timing. This would indicate that it is possible that there could be no library service for a time. Dianne Fallon indicated that the Rice board has no interest in disposing of the building before there is an operational library in place.

Public Input Process

It was agreed that public input regarding the disposition of the Taylor building and how any plan fits within the total plan for the Foreside is critical. While this input is critical, it was agreed that the Rice project will need to be further along before public input can be sought for the Taylor building. Roger Cole expressed his concern that this committee would have a difficult time coordinating with the Rice timing and re-read a portion of the Taylor committee charge to the group:

The Council wishes the Committee to gather public input on the goals, concerns, and options for the development of the Taylor Building parcel, to develop a request for proposals for the sale and/or development of the parcel, to evaluate proposals based on criteria it establishes, and

to recommend the most advantageous proposal to the Council for consideration and action.

Matt Brock agreed with the charge, but expressed his opinion that what happens at Rice will affect what will/can happen with the Taylor building, for example, will the parcel be needed partially for parking, etc.? George Dow agreed, stating that the public should be solid on what is happening with Rice first and will be more engaged if it is known what the Rice project will look like and how the Taylor site may be used.

Foreside Study Survey

Kendra Amaral discussed the completed Foreside Study and the upcoming survey to be released to the community. The survey will touch on opinions regarding the mix of residential, commercial, restaurants, etc. currently in the Foreside and what the general consensus of what is missing and what is there, but not valued. Opinions regarding public spaces, bike facilities and parking are also included. Kendra Amaral indicated that she would provide a copy of the draft plan to the committee and the committee can provide feedback as well (by October 17th).

Dianne Fallon expressed the importance of getting the survey out to as many people as possible to encourage community engagement. It was agreed that the following would be established for the survey promotion and distribution:

1. Desk set-up on voting day which will include paper surveys and a postcard with a link to the survey online.
2. Strategic placement of postcards and surveys across town locations, including, the KCC, Town Hall, Library and any businesses willing to have items available.

The survey will be open for approximately two weeks.

Committee Update – Library Transition Group

Kendra Amaral provided the committee with a brief update on the progress of the committee responsible for transitioning the library into a town department. The Transition Committee is working on staffing items and awaiting the decision from the Library Board as to whether they will remain a 501c(3) or become a committee of the town. Diane Fallon indicated that the Board has discussed this item and wishes to retain its 501c(3) designation and is working with their attorney.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia A. Moore