

**Preliminary Rink Design Committee (PRDC)
Final Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 8, 2022
Virtual Zoom Meeting
7:30 AM**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: July 11, 2022
TIME: 2:45 PM

Preliminary Rink Design Committee (PRDC) Members Virtually Attending:

Mark Haley, William Shea, Stephen Sala, Meg Moriarty, Frank French, Dante Muzzioli, Tom Caputo

From CHA: Tom Gatzunis, Don White, Jacob Zelikman

I. Call to Order of the Preliminary Rink Design Committee (PRDC)

The Preliminary Rink Design Committee meeting (#21) was called to order at 7:31 a.m. by Chair Haley.

II. Discussion: Recent Select Board Meetings

Chair Haley informed the PRDC that he is meeting with the Select Board tonight. He said there are two options that he will present: rebuild the rink (around \$28M) or expand/renovate the rink (around \$25M). They each have a price tag now. One option involves a new footprint. He then discussed locker rooms and the shape of the rink (making it more skinny). Mr. French spoke in favor of the renovate/expand option.

III. Discussion: Upcoming Town Meeting (Monday, June 13, 2022)

Chair Haley asked if the PRDC should be making a recommendation at Town Meeting? Mr. Caputo agreed that the expand/renovate option meets many of the community's needs. He added that this Committee has done a lot of research and can make a specific recommendation based on all of their work. He wondered if it was a little premature to put a budget number out at Town Meeting; maybe a budget *range*, as opposed to a number. Mr. Haley agreed. He said the TM vote does not need a budget number; it is just to appoint a Rink Committee.

Mr. Muzzioli stated he has received many calls about the process of the PRDC. The public did not understand that this work was to do research. He agreed that a number should not be presented at TM. At some point, he added, we will need to clarify the charge of the PRDC and the path that the PRDC has taken. Mr. Haley agreed and added that the rink location needs to go through the School Committee.

Mr. Gatzunis agreed that a budget number should not be put forth at this point. The community might fixate on this number and it is only a construction fee; there will be other items (testing and other fees) added to this budget number.

Mr. French raised the issue of solar power on this project (and the TM Citizen's Petition amendment concerning solar power). Mr. Haley noted that it will only make sense to do solar if doing so saves money down the road. We are not ready to decide on solar, he added, we are still figuring out the program. Mr. Gatzunis added the solar panel number (\$2.6M) is the same number that it will cost at

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the high school.

Solar panels were briefly discussed, i.e., making a PRDC motion concerning solar, submitting another amendment, responding to the Citizen's Petition, and the School Committee's vote on the rink article (Article 8).

Chair Haley then discussed the impetus for his meeting tonight, with Mr. Galante, to the Select Board. The presentation will discuss both the rink program and the rink options. Budget numbers will not be discussed. In answer to a question from Mr. Muzzioli, Chair Haley said that, while he will discuss the fact that the PRDC has explored a number of considerations, the two rink options are what are being recommended at this point. The PRDC agreed with this approach.

Chair Haley added that a recent discussion with Ms. Brusch revealed that *design development* cannot proceed without a successful debt exclusion in hand. This topic was discussed. Mr. Gatzunis said that design can proceed if there is funding in hand to do it: if the town appropriates the money, design can occur.

Next, the PRDC discussed the proposed Article 8 motion as well as the possibility of submitting an amendment to the Citizen's Petition.

Mr. Caputo then raised the topic of the locker room program. Could this be scaled down in order to lower the budget number? Chair Haley said that this is a part of the program that needs to be discussed further. Mr. Muzzioli agreed that the locker room program both changes the scope and adds to the budget. Taking care of all these issues (White Field House, lockers, etc.) is concerning for passing the debt exclusion. Hitting the \$30M mark is raising questions throughout the community.

Mr. Sala added that a separate area can be built for locker rooms with funding allocated from another place. Chair Haley and others agreed; put the infrastructure in place and also separate out the locker rooms. This concept was explored.

In lieu of the PRDC submitting a motion on the Citizen's Petition, Chair Haley will reach out to the Town Moderator about creating an *amendment* to address the Citizen's Petition. The PRDC will meet again on Monday morning to vote on a motion or on an amendment.

IV. New Business

Next PRDC Meeting: Monday, June 13, 7:30 AM

V. Adjournment

Chair Haley ended the PRDC meeting at 8:36 a.m., following a motion made by Mr. Muzzioli.

Respectfully submitted by:
Lisa Gibalerio

Approved: ___ Meghan Moriarty ___
 Meg Moriarty, Secretary

July 11, 2022____
Date

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