

**Preliminary Rink Design Committee (PRDC)  
Final Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 7, 2022  
Virtual Public Forum Meeting  
7:00 PM**

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: June 1, 2022  
TIME: 9:22 AM

*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

Others: Ted Galante (and members of the Galante team)

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

The Preliminary Rink Design Committee meeting (#16) was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Haley.

**II. Solicit Input from the Community on Alternative Designs for a Rink and Locker Room Facility West of Harris Field**

Chair Haley stated that this evening's meeting is a Public Forum. He said the purpose of this meeting is to solicit input on a new versus a rehabilitated rink and to explore some site options. Chair Haley said that he has spoken to the School Dept and to the Recreation Dept about the needed programs. The Committee has looked at rink criteria to determine how many locker rooms are needed. The goal is that this will be a sustainable building achieving as close to ZNE as possible. He then discussed the field uses in the general area. Parking will need to be evaluated in conjunction to evaluating the disposition of the White Field House.

Chair Haley then provided some background on the PRDC. He noted that the Committee first met in December and since then have engaged an OPM and an architect. The Committee meets on a weekly basis and also meets with the architect weekly.

Chair Haley next reviewed the ground rules of tonight's Public Forum.

**III. Architect Presentation on Various Options Under Consideration**

Mr. Galante introduced himself and noted that he has experience working in Belmont as he recently was involved in the Police Station project. The purpose of this meeting is to receive feedback on the work completed so far. He then discussed several slides pertaining to this area.

Mr. Galante discussed the existing rink:

- The rink opened in 1970
- The rink is falling apart and is way past its life expectancy
- The building is leaky, failing, and crumbling
- The building is in violation of numerous building codes, including ADA

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- The building does not comply with any energy codes
- The slabs are heaving and crumbling
- The locker rooms and bleachers are in terrible shape

He then discussed the White Field House (WFH):

- The WFH is also not compliant with codes
- It was built in 1932
- It is also way past its life expectancy and is unsafe in many ways

#### **IV. Current Program for Facility**

Mr. Galante then discussed the programs:

- One large single sheet of ice
- Programs needed include: an office, a sheet of ice, seating, Zamboni storage, concessions, and the consideration of tennis courts
- ZNE – reuse parts of the building with energy embodied in them

He then reviewed possible structural items that could help make the building energy reliant. The current rink is not sized properly. Renovation and expansion is an option that maintains some parts of the structure. The Galante team is looking at what, if anything from the existing structure, can be saved. The building will need to be much more energy efficient, e.g., solar/PV panels. He showed drawings of what this type of building might look like. Mr. Galante then showed a photo with tennis court placement on the roof.

He next discussed the potential for a new building placed parallel to the tracks. He described what this might look like. He explained that these options would necessitate a two-year build process with no rink in Belmont during that time. Two other options would have the build happening while the existing rink is in use.

#### **V. Public Comments**

Ms. Amy Tananbaum, Goden Street, suggested that we look for solid long-term solutions, a tennis solution is a good one, and putting the building away from Concord Ave. would be the safest option.

Mr. Brian Iler, School St., spoke to the benefits of having the building be operationally ZNE. This is the expectation of the town. ZNE can save a ton of money.

Ms. Karen McElroy, Wellesley Road, encouraged the PRDC to focus on the programming including ice rentals and tennis courts.

Ms. Barr, School Street, spoke enthusiastically about the tennis courts. She added that keeping as much open space as possible should be a priority.

Mr. Art Kinzinger spoke to the program design and asked about incorporating a sandwich shop -- which becomes a draw, especially for young people. He spoke to the merits of a “wholistic”

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approach.

Ms. Carolyn Bishop applauded the creative thinking. She said we need to re-think the field space that surrounds the rink – perhaps placing a tennis court on a field. Strive for ZNE, she added, or getting as close to possible to it. The locker rooms make sense.

Ms. Kayla Wiggin, Country Club Lane, expressed her appreciation to the group on the work that is being done. She asked about a plan if the current rink fails.

Mr. Michael Goode spoke to the many hockey programs and the need for lockers. A sub-shop is not necessary because they exist nearby, in Belmont Center.

Ms. Kathy Keohane, Rutledge Road, said the rink and the library are both in dire need of attention. She asked questions about the scope of the project, including parking. Chair Haley explained where the 90-parking space concept came from.

Ms. Maria Olagunju expressed her enthusiasm for tennis courts. Fields/sports should be the priority. She asked several questions about the design of the fields.

Ms. Yulia of Claflin St. expressed support for green energy and ZNE. Mr. Galante provided information on PV panels and other sources of energy.

Ms. Corrine McCue Olmsted, Stone Road, asked about parking and tennis courts.

Ms. Anne Marie Mahoney, Goden St., urged the Committee to not forget the figure skaters.

Ms. Schreiber spoke to the concept of financial realism. Many of these options are very expensive. She said she would like a constrained project to keep costs reasonable.

Ms. Jeanne Mooney asked for scope clarification for summer programs, i.e., would the rink be year-round? She said the costs for some of the options will need to be closely examined.

Mr. Michael Schwartz, Louise Road, asked about the current rink/facility and its potential of failing. Chair Haley replied that two years or more is possible for this rink, but not a guarantee. Mr. Galante said the facility is currently in a state of failure.

Mr. Lincoln Currie, Citizen Herald Reporter, asked about the process going forward. Chair Haley said that this Committee (PRDC) will report its findings, and Town Meeting will vote to establish a Building Committee, and that the Building Committee will establish a budget and move the project forward.

Ms. Cristin McArdle, Alma Ave., asked about costs to the town if the existing rink is shut down for two years.

Ms. Bishop stated that parking should not be a priority over field space. People will find places to park.

Ms. Mooney asked about operational costs for summer leasing and what would be the income source.  
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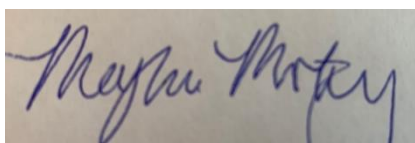
Chair Haley asked if PRDC members had any comments; they did not, and he asked for a motion to end the meeting.

## **VI. Adjournment**

Chair Haley ended the PRDC meeting at 8:08 p.m., following a motion made by Mr. Muzzioli.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Gibalerio

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Meg Moriarty", is shown on a light-colored background.

Approved:

Meg Moriarty, Secretary

Date: May 31, 2022

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