

**Preliminary Rink Design Committee (PRDC)
Final Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 7, 2022
Virtual Zoom Meeting
7:30 AM**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: June 1, 2022
TIME: 9:21 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

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 (#15) was called to order at 7:36 a.m. by Chair Haley.

II. Discussion of Public Forum: Thursday, April 7, 7:00 PM

Chair Haley reviewed the Public Forum format. He will open the forum and provide a summary statement, Mr. Galante will discuss the White Field House, the program, and then alternatives/options for the rink and expanded lockers. There are no costs to reveal. Resident feedback was explored next – what type of feedback, on which topic areas, and will there be time limits, etc.

This conversation dovetailed into a conversation about the Galante presentation and the need for a timeline on the decision making.

Chair Haley added that site location, rehab options, and program are the areas that need to be focused on tonight. Chair Haley said he will set the ground rules in the opening summary statement. Mr. Caputo noted that including information on the process would be helpful for the public. Selectman Epstein suggested that a three-minute time limit (per comment) makes sense and he advised that the Committee does not have to *respond* to all the comments.

III. Update: Design Process

Mr. Galante reviewed his presentation that he will be giving tonight:

- The rink opened in 1970 (adjusted from 1961)
- It is a single sheet of ice
- It has served its purpose over 50 years
- The building is tired (this will be adjusted to “not functioning/broken”)
- Programs needed include: office, ice, seating, Zamboni storage, parking, restrooms, concessions and other elements which could make the current building bigger

The best approaches include renovating the existing rink or creating a new rink. The Galante team is looking at what, if anything from the existing structure, can be saved. The building will need to be FINAL

much more energy efficient, e.g., solar/PV panels.

He then discussed potential sites for the rink. Four options are currently being studied. He showed images and discussed the four potential options, including locations, program elements, parking, ice placement, locker room placement, grading, height of building, and the potential for rooftop tennis courts. The renderings will be updated as more information is learned about each option that is currently on the table.

PRDC Comments

Chair Haley adjusted the date the rink opened and then suggested that Mr. Galante add that the current rink does not meet code (ADA). Mr. Muzzioli suggested that the deficiencies of the current rink be briefly discussed. Ms. Moriarty noted that some of what is laid out (under programming) are “must haves” and some fall under “nice to haves” and perhaps more clarity around the two categories might be helpful. Mr. Sala added that we might want to explain more around the required parking and the issues related to the White Field House. Mr. Caputo agreed with providing clarity around “must haves” and “nice to have” programming. He then discussed the impact of these options on the existing fields. He added that costs will be an important part of the decision making and that this point should be noted up front. He expressed concern about discussing tennis courts on the roof and underground parking – this could set the wrong tone for the public. Mr. Shea spoke to the need to build a high-quality rink adjacent to the brand new middle/high school complex.

Mr. Gatzunis suggested to underscore the fact that the current rink does not meet any current energy code requirements. He spoke about the overlapping fields concept. Concerning timing, the fields located east of the high school are slated to be completed in 2023/24.

V. Public Comments

Ms. Schreiber, of the Rink Financing Committee and High School Building Committee, offered comments on the Galante presentation. She recommended stating that the rink is fundamentally broken – it surpasses “tired”. She noted that there are current programs that we do not want to lose. She then discussed the overlapping program components, e.g., dual use locker rooms. She asked if 90 parking spots are truly required.

Mr. Thayer noted that operating costs have to be considered as well. He asked about ZNE specifically and encouraged that ZNE be stated as an implied goal. Mr. Haley responded that ZNE is almost impossible to achieve with rinks; it will be as energy efficient as it can be.

Mr. Muzzioli expressed concern about the rooftop tennis courts including the tone that this sets and the potential for cost escalation on the project. This topic was explored.

Mr. Caputo suggested that Mr. Galante spend more time exploring the programming up front. The “nice to haves” can be acknowledged, but the focus should be on what is required.

IV. New Business

FINAL

None.

VII. Next Meeting:

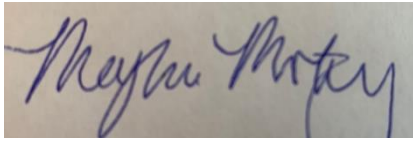
Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 PM – Public Forum

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Haley ended the PRDC meeting at 8:38 a.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 written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Approved:

Meg Moriarty, Secretary

Date: May 31, 2022

FINAL