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UNDERWOOD POOL PROJECT
Belmont, Massachusetts
BELMONT UNDERWOOD POOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 27, 2014
Belmont Town Hall – Conference Room 2

Attending:

Underwood Pool Building Committee (UPBC) – Anne Paulsen (Chair), David Kane (Recreation Commission Vice-chair), Ellen Schreiber, Kristine Armstrong

Also in attendance – Peter Castanino (Director DPW and UPBC liaison), Chris Rotti (BH+A), Tom O'Neil (PCI), Robert Phillips (neighbor),

Call to Order: Anne Paulsen called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

1. Approve Minutes of Previous UPBC Meeting

- There was not a quorum for this meeting. No motions were heard and no items were voted on. This meeting was for discussion purposes only.

2. Planning Board Meeting Update

- Anne updated the team on the Planning Board meeting. It was noted that the Planning Board would need more information on Parking, Appearance of the Building, the Outdoor Showers, and Shade.
 - **Parking**
 - This will require further discussion with the planning board once a parking plan is developed
 - **The Appearance of the Buildings**
 - Chris noted that the buildings were designed with a more modern appearance in an effort to differentiate them from the historic pool buildings. It was also noted that these designed are very preliminary and would be further developed with input from the UPBC.
 - **The Outdoor Showers**
 - Chris noted that the outdoor showers to not count against the required showers per the plumbing code
 - **Shade**
 - The landscape plan will be further developed to show the shade from the trees.
 - It was also noted that a shade structure would be impractical, as it would add to the massing of the buildings, which is something that we are trying to reduce. BH+A will continue to look at this.

3. Warrant Committee update

- Anne Paulsen reported that the UPBC presented their information to the Warrant Committee. No vote was taken. The Warrant Committee requested more information from the UPBC. Adam Dash will present this additional information at the next meeting.

4. Public Comments

- **Resident #1**

- Resident 1 is outraged that there is a pool building planned for Cottage Street.
- Noted that he and his wife have spent money for plantings on the Underwood pool site.
- Noted that there is adequate room on the site, and that the building should not be placed in front of their house.
- Resident #1 presented a display board that showed that if you reduce the capacity for bathers by 50%, you can reduce the requirement for plumbing fixtures by 50%.
- Strongly advocated a smaller pool
- Noted that there should be no vending area
- Less is More
- The building on Cottage Street should be eliminated, there should only be one building in the same location as the existing building, and the pump house building on Cottage Street should be moved 65 feet up the hill.
- Supports the pool but cannot support the project with the building on Cottage Street.
- Resident #1 needs to insist on these changes
- Concerned about a substantial loss in property value to their property.
- Noted that he will work hard to defeat the project as currently designed.

- **Kristine Armstrong's Response to Resident #1**

- The committee has shown respect for the Cottage Street neighbors and effect of the pool on all of the neighbors is frequently reviewed
- The Committee has tried to balance the how to make the pool that suits the needs of all residents against the impact to the area.
- We cannot build a smaller project that will not serve the needs of the community
- Understands the less is more concept, but not as it applies to the size of the pool.

- **Ellen Schreiber's response to Resident #1**

- Provided an overview of the results of the 500+ responses to the survey
- Noted that one of the largest complaints in the survey was overcrowding
- The committee never wanted to make a larger pool, only a more efficient pool.
- Cannot serve the needs of the community with a smaller pool

- **Resident #2 (wife of Resident #1)**

- Resident #2 showed a lot of pictures of the site, both current, and pictures from the summer when the trees and flowers were in bloom
- Resident #2 reiterated that they had spent a lot of money to plant flowers and shrubs on the pool side of the road
- Provided a handout outlining her concerns
 - The handout was reviewed in detail
- Noted that the entrance on Cottage street would ruin her quality of live
- Thinks the parking at Wellington school is a fantastic idea
- The parking proposed for the site should be reviewed.
- Noted that the 'Causeway' (top of the concrete culvert) must be maintained. "The pool is only used 10 weeks a year but the causeway is used 52 weeks a year"

- **Resident #3**
 - Resident #3 lives up the hill
 - Does not want the pool to be smaller than it is.
 - Enjoys lane swimming
 - Would like to move the entrance to Concord Street
 - Noted that Cottage Street is narrow
 - Noted that she is in favor of the pool
- **Resident #4**
 - Resident #4 noted that the mathematical calculations did not make sense to him. Resident #4 had no other comments.
- **Resident #5**
 - Resident #5 voiced support for the pool
 - "We cannot let the vote go down"
 - "We cannot let the pool go away"

5. Discussion on the March 13th Public Meeting

- Anne noted that there should be a Power Point presentation for the meeting
- All parties noted that the lane lines should be removed from the lap pool area
- It was decided that Adam Dash will handle the majority of the presentation
- Anne reminded the Committee that the UPBC cannot advocate in favor of the pool at this meeting
- Anne believes there should be a handout and the committee will decide what is included in the handout, but it could include all the pertinent numbers
- The last slide of the presentation should be a drawing of the site plan and should remain on the screen for reference
- Take Questions
- Directly address the size of the building
- Directly address the size of the pool (2/3 existing)
- Directly address the two pool plan
- Prepare for questions on Staffing
- Prepare for questions on Parking
- Prepare for questions on Shower Safety
- Note that the architectural design of the buildings is not finalized yet.

6. Recreation Committee Update

- Dave Kane presented an update from the Recreation Committee Meeting noting that he informed the Recreation Committee that the pool was being designed as a multi-generational pool, and the pool should be a gathering place for everyone.
- The recreation will be focusing on programming, and recreation department will be working on this prior to the opening of the new pool will work on
- Anne noted to Dave that someone from the recreation committee should speak at the Warrant Committee meeting.

7. Meeting Adjourned

- With no quorum, Anne Paulsen adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Next UPBC Meeting Dates:

- There are no meetings the week of March 3rd, 2014.

Upcoming Milestones:

- BOS Vote of Debt Exclusion Language
- TBD: Public Presentation by UPBC to Joint Town Committees
- Thursday, March 13, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.: Public Meeting
- Tuesday, April 1, 2014: Town Election Day / Debt Exclusion Vote
- Monday, May 5, 2014: Town Meeting

Respectfully Submitted, Tom O'Neil, Pinck & Co. Inc.