

Property minutes 8/17/2022

Meeting called to order at 18:21

Meeting remotely

Present Homar Gomez, JP Kwiecinski , Owen Zaret

Discussed new city quick actions will discuss at next meeting

Public Speak:

Nicole LaChapelle. Mayor

Read joint proclamation from a variety of housing organizations regarding affordable housing in the city

School Reuse

Members and councilors

Owen Zaret: Spoke about buildings and potential uses

Homar Gomez: Added saw needs for those buildings for the community as a whole. Need to understand the draft RFP and what can and can not be changed. Recommended Michael Owens speak to needs of community and what can and can not be changed

Brad Riley:

Was at the walk through

Was on the committee that drafted the RFP

Has heard some of the ideas

A lot of the ideas are built into the draft

A lot of public feedback and community need is built into the proposal

Discussed the difference between non profit and private developers

Councilor Kwiezinski spoke to the process moving forward and thinking about how to approach this

Councilor Zaret: We need to set a schedule now and think about the community as a whole

Councilor Gomez: We need to be cognizant of the winter approaching, expenses and need to schedule

Councilor Kweicinski set the following two meetings:

August 31st at 6
September 14 at 6

The chair stated that the Schools no longer need schools and need council to look to recommend to accept as surplus

Michael Owens: chief procurement officer
Relapsed as surplus not being used for education
Offered a Spreadsheet for operating expenses including outside services inspections lighting, sprinklers, boiler cleaning, etc
DPW and procurement have reached out to auction houses

Chair:

Asked for a copy of cost of buildings to operate
Letter request to accept and if members of community can use exterior features

Mayor Lachapelle:
Council will see spreadsheet and appropriation at next council meeting as new business
The City needs to accept in order to access exterior features and make provisions

Public speak

Kate Banigan White:
Agree with Brad Riley that need to focus on affordable housing in terms of use.
Need to maximize housing opportunities

Max Swisher:
Resident of Easthampton works at new city. Housing is urgent in the city. The RFP represents a process by a lot of people and time and effort

Kiam McQuaid:

In support of the RFP as written. RFP reflects the concerns of the community. City council will have an opportunity to address the bids

Scott Cavanaugh:

Supports RFP as written number one priority as housing. Second priority is community connection look at walkable and sustainable use. Maintain walkable and bike able assets such as playgrounds. Need nodes of connections for walking and biking. Parking could be better allocated through way finding.

Shira Simon:

2006 resident. Owner of a multifamily from 2015 and single family 2017
Member of the fair and affordable housing partnership
Shared an anecdote about how to help people who need more affordable housing

Kaihla Laurent:

Supports the RFP as written. Top priority as housing. Some thoughts on affordable housing that this affects everyone in the community.

Janna Tetreault 52 Pomeroy:

Chair of affordable and fair housing
Fully supports RFP as currently written
Works at community action pioneer valley
Spoke about rental assistance in the city and who received those benefits

Jeff Bagg:

Would like to have the consultant at the next meeting to explain the RFP and how it should work. Flexibility for how a group responds to the RFP. There are community goals and needs. Need to let developers evaluate buildings and present back to city council and council can approve.

Need to make sure that there are other councilors available who are aware and can participate.

There is a lot of information on the project website

Documents about the state of the schools and condition

Mayor:

Points look at page 29 of the RFP

City has spent resources on making affordable housing available

The council will have another chance to review proposals

Mayor is recommending removing the RFP from the committee at the September 7 meeting and moving to city council for a full vote

Councilor Zaret:

There are many resources available on the website we need to move forward

Councilor Gomez:

Be ready to review the RFP and be ready to move forward

Is our job to do our due diligence and respect the work of the group but is also our job to review and move forward

Spoke to understanding needs for housing

Motion to adjourn made by councilor Gomez and seconded by Zaret

Committee approved 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 19:46