

Walker Repurposing Committee meeting minutes
8/12/26
6:00PM at former Walker School.

Present: Elise Brown, Harry Shedi, Pete Beckford, Barbara Edmond, Jim Caldwell, Bob Kohl, Joanne Pease, Patty Crawford, Gail Phillipi, Richard King, Mica, Natalie (possible new member), Carol McGovern.
Not present: Cheryl Ball

Guest in attendance- Adi Philson from MCOG.

Elise called meeting to order at 6:00 PM
Approval of 7/22/26 minutes:
Barbara- Motion to approve
Jim.- Second
No objections.

Celebrations- \$120,000 application for ADA Trail is in progress.
There have been many clicks on the building tenant survey already.

Reports:

Chairs report-

Select board meeting last week. Budget for school reviewed which is \$54,000. Custodial care is suspended for now. Will seek volunteer help. Adi suggested that there is some possible funding for interim costs.

ACTION STEP- Elise will work with Adi to seek funds for interim costs.

Barbara has drafted a letter for select board to submit to fire marshall requesting use of bathrooms and greenhouse prior to building renovations.

Seeking SME (Subject Matter Experts) to recruit for assistance in repurposing projects. A list has been created including Kristine Gorman and Joe Fickett who have been contacted.

ACTION STEP- Send names to Elise of potential professionals in the area of electrical work and plumbing work.

Max Johnston from MCOG clarified the next step in brownfield assessment process. Phase I indicated a possible contamination from old underground tanks. The Phase II process will begin to investigate that possible contamination. Costs are covered by a grant through MCOG.

Need for other helpers in the area of Data Processing, Alumni event planning and Marketing.
ACTION STEP- send potential names to Elise who might be interested in helping out.

Team reports-

Facilities Committee:

Jim requested that no trash be left in the building as custodial work is delayed for now. The fiber instillation has begun.

ACTION STEP- Jim will discuss the fiber installation plan with select board.

Richard would like to present some plans he as prepared at the next full committee meeting. He feels it is important to have some initial plans for future cost development.

ACTION STEP- place Richard on next full committee meeting agenda.

Richard met with Kristine and she suggested that some RFI's be put out to spark interest among developers/builders.

ACTION STEP- determine who and how this will be done.

Fundraising Committee:

Bob reported that the Northern Border Regional Commission- is an implementation grant that we could apply for and is a good fit for our mission. It has a cap of one million dollars with 80/20 match. A pre-application is in the works which has an Oct. deadline. Response will be in December.

ACTION STEP- Send any questions about grants to the fundraising committee so the responses are accurate.

Major donor campaign update. Committee has met with Haystack campaign organizers. They are looking to identify possible donors. Maybe consider some "house parties".

ACTION STEP- Send possible donor names to committee members.

Barbara reported that the Fiscal Partnership plan with the Liberty Library is going forward with a presentation to Library Board members on 8/18/26

Mixed Use Committee:

Pete reported that that potential tenant survey is out. Cheryl has posted it on-line. Flyers and paper surveys are available at the library and town office. Also available at LSG for committee member to pick-up for distribution.

Harry asked if there was any radio or TV outreach

ACTION STEP- Elise will reach out to WERU

Adi suggested that there might be a larger corporation that would be interested in leasing a large portion of the building.

ACTION STEP- Adi will reach out to potential candidates and will bring a list to the next Mixed use committee meeting.

Elise has created a spreadsheet to record outreach contacts. Also Harry is tracking potential tenants.

ACTION STEP- sent names of contacts you have made to Harry and Elise.

New business-

ACTION STEP- send updated to Jane Autumn by 8/18/26 for community newsletter.

Fall meeting plans:

It was determined to stay will current plan of one monthly full committee meeting and working committees meeting as needed, for September and October. Full committee can be called to meet additionally if deemed necessary.

ACTION STEP- put these dates on your calendar. Full committee meeting Sept. 9 and Oct. 14, 6:00 pm at Walker bldg.

Fundraising Mission Statement-

ACTION STEP- Review the long and short version and send comments to Cheryl ASAP . Even if you have not feedback, please respond that you read and agree.

Unity of Voice-

We are "Walker School Repurposing Committee"

Our project is best described as "Walker School Redevelopment Project" This was agreed to by everyone after some discussion.

ACTION STEP- Elise will review initial appointment of committee members by Liberty select board to ensure a consistent message.

Are we relaying facts or our opinions? Be careful to identify which stance you are taking while talking to community. For example "As a committee member..... My opinion is....."

ACTION STEP- Convey the very important message to community that our job is to develop a robust plan to put before the town for their approval.

Cheryl is working with Autumn to update the website and provide current information.

Seed committee- Elise asked that we all consider making a monetary donation. Seeking 100% participation provides the message of commitment to the project and his helpful for potential fund raising.

ACTION STEP- Cheryl is creating a donation link.

Pete asked about the possibility that we have all made donations and receiving money from other donors, and the town votes "no". It was discussed that we will need to prepare for a way to mediate that possibility.

Motion to adjourn the meeting- Joanne

Second- Jim

No Objections

Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM