

Meeting Minutes Committee on General Government

May 1, 2023

Page 1 of 3

Meeting Recording:

Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/aQFBQ0Tr2PsUuTgyp9LEyBXOY5whclv-n6679IY956ywWbkpIHhtVwzYVZf41nli.ds-wY8ExbgxdhhD->

Members

Heather Shand, Chair
Byron Lane, Councilor Ward 6 (
Bruce Vogel, Councilor-at-Large

Other Participants

Planning Director Andy Port
Ed Cameron, Cllr At-large
Sharif Zeid, Ward 1
Connie Preston, Cllr At-large
Jim McCauley, Ward 5
Afroz Khan, Cllr At-large
Jennie Donahue, Ward 2 (via Zoom)

Agenda

- COMM00464 Brown School RFI Clr Zeid Redlines (as amended in 4/3 committee meeting)
- COMM00461 Brown School Gymnasium Considerations (COTW)
- ORDR00428 Request for Expression of Interest (RFI) for Brown School Property (COTW)
- COMM00468 Brown School Proposal (COTW)

Meeting called to order at 5:30.

Intention of the meeting is to review the updated RFI from Director Port and update.

Public Comment

Patti Myer, 14 Sylvester Street

- Supports Brown School for senior housing, regarding the gym, whatever makes the plan viable

Marianne Vesey, 10 Kent Street

- Supports affordable housing and would support additional units beyond current BSOD zoning

Madeline Nash, 19 Arlington Street, AHT Chair

- Important opportunity to create housing in the community
- Preservation of the gym not as important as housing, doesn't have to be in conflict
- LHEC credit is given on a per unit basis

Meeting Minutes Committee on General Government

May 1, 2023

Page 2 of 3

Committee discussed

S Zeid – Concerned for the neighborhood and wants the gym excluded. Playground should be articulated.

B Vogel – asks how to take gym out of the formula and acknowledge the space

B. Lane –include the gym and have it as a resource /community space for all

J. McCauley – Speaks to the 22k square feet of school space and not keep gym space in the RFI

E. Cameron – Supports the RFI and keeping it open with both school and gym included, uses Bridgewater example of successful school project.

Preston – agrees with including gym in RFI, supports keeping the gym

A Khan – Speaks to director ort and asks what spaces should be available

J Donahue – Agrees with Cllr Cameron, keep gym space in RFI.

B. Vogel – Points out III and IV B2 for amendments

J. McCauley – doesn't like the market telling us what the city should do. Advocates for gym being removed from RFI

S Zeid – Advocates to keep gym out of RFI and maintain as community space

A Khan – supports moving RFI forward

J Donahue – Would like more public input.

Director Port speaks to understanding what updates the council is looking for to clarify language.

Public comment

Richard Lodge, 15 Hancock Street

- Supports more affordable housing

Madeline Nash, AHT

- ¶ Notes the RFI has wording in goals as “at no less than 60% AMI” whereas the underlying zoning states it should be “at no more than 60% AMI”

Jane Snow, 9 Coffin Street

- Disappointed in the process council has taken. Needed more public comment. Too many things have been removed from the RFI. Municipal space, etc.

Susanne Cameron, 17 Hancock Street

- Supports affordable housing. The gym doesn't have to be separated, it could be part of the development.

Stephanie Niketic, 93 High Street

- Disappointed in the process. 2019 was the last time the public had any input. Doesn't think NYS should be divorced from the decision.

Pedro Rosario, Nbpt DPS

- Spoke to gym inclusion

Meeting Minutes Committee on General Government

May 1, 2023

Page 3 of 3

Close public comment

Committee discussion

S Zeid spoke to 60% and desire for neighborhood to not have low income housing
E Cameron – spoke to 60% AMI equating to \$58k for the area.

Committee voted 3-0 to recommend the RFI language for Director Port to use for final submittal.
Vogel motioned, Cllr Lane was the second.

Committee votes to adjourn. 7:00