

## Meeting Minutes Committee on General Government

October 2, 2023

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### Meeting Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/KLNvdk7IBkiM8At68Pn35jBhnFjDJd64pMtOy1KLzQFk3a02oImRgPhqrCvmtD8r.nONMKfa1kwJrF0MJ>

### Members

Cllr. Heather Shand, Chair  
Cllr. Bruce Vogel, At-large  
Cllr. Byron Lane, Ward 6 (Zoom)

### Other Participants

Cllr. Jennie Donahue, Ward 2(zoom)  
Cllr. Connie Preston, At-Large  
Cllr. Jim McCauley, Ward 5  
Cllr. Mark Wright, At-Large

### Agenda

- COMM506 RFI Responses to Brown School

### Public Comment

1. John Kolterjahn, 64 Federal Street
  - Supports keeping the Brown School gym and supports 20 units of senior affordable housing
2. Jane Snow, 9 Coffin Street
  - Playground order goes back to 2013
  - Spoke to housing production plan
  - Look at big picture, how to supply housing to folks
  - Asked Dr. Port to share housing plan with everyone
3. Susan McKittrick, 8 Fruit Street
  - a. City has desperate need for affordable housing
  - b. Support senior affordable, 30 units
4. Beth Trach, 144 Low Street
  - a. Affordable housing is a need, gym is a want
  - b. Get a gym at Low Street
  - c. Prioritize projects
5. Steven Krusemark, 78 Lime Street
  - a. Gym is out of date, should let it go and not put money into it
  - b. Supports affordable housing
6. Susan Benveniste, 51 Milk Street
  - a. Disappointed gym is in the plan, does not benefit her as a constituent
  - b. Supports affordable housing
7. Julie Menin, 83 Milk Street
  - a. Supports affordable housing 30-40 units
  - b. Doesn't support the gym
8. Judy Avery, 54 Milk Street
  - a. Doesn't want city to lose sight for need for affordable housing
  - b. Disagree with market rate units
  - c. Why didn't city take care of the building
9. Brendan Hughes, 90 Lime Street

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- a. Gym is not a priority
  - b. Use space for affordable housing
10. Judy Tymon, 39 Lime Street
- a. Supports affordable housing

Closed public comment

### Discussion

Cllr. Donahue interested in response from developer who mentioned housing for disabled people.

Cllr. Zeid wanted more information on timelines and funding sources from responses.

Cllr. McCauley questioned what the city contributions would be.

Cllr. Wright thought the RFP is a good idea. RFP W/O zoning determination

Cllr Preston also questions timelines listed

Cllr Lane wants more information on city contribution on costs and what the value of the building is.

Cllr. Vogel supports NYS at Low Street and doesn't think funding gym is a good use of city funds

Cllr Zeid speaks to neighborhood position, doesn't want infill. Regarding the gym and NYS, the divorce is done but thinks the gym could be used for other needs.

Cllr Donahue thinks there are opportunities for housing for folks with disabilities should be pursued.

Dir. Port speaks to a 99 year long term lease is acceptable for developers to get funding.

Cllr. Vogel, chicken and egg question regarding NYS and Brown School gym.

Cllr. McCauley is a proponent of reactivating the Brown School Gym, would be ~\$500k, recommends RFP is contractors.

Cllr. Zeid not opposed to zoning change but the numbers for parking do matter.

Cllr. Vogel, supports getting RFP on gym to get actual numbers on reactivation

Cllr. Preston supports RFP for gym

Cllr. Donahue supports RFP for gym

Cllr. Zeid, need to sharpen pencils, it's a land use issue, wants to get information from developers regarding Point Diamond response (no market rate housing..info on financing) and wants YMCA info on financing and timeline too.

Cllr. Lane wants the property appraised.

Cllr. Preston wants to know if the information from EGA on gym reactivation is accurate

Madeline Nash (AHT) speaks to RFI responses, not all not for profit developers responded

Cllr. Zeid, agrees we need more information.

Committee agreed to keep COMM 506 in committee while request made to Director Port and Chief of Staff Levine on getting additional information on funding and timelines from RFI respondents.

Committee adjourned.