

FACA Steering Committee Minutes June 9, 2016

In attendance: Elizabeth Guffey, Mark Evans, Keith McBride, Ellen Ebert, Betsy Roper, Jane Bradley, Ed Bradley, Julie Freund, Lola Lea, Nancy Salmon, David Webster, Linda Bail, Susan Metters, Margaret Morfitt, Kathleen Sullivan

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm

(1) Meeting minutes

Ed moved to accept May 5 minutes, Ellen seconded, passed unanimously – 5/5/16 minutes approved

(2) Financial report – Jane Bradley

Current balance: \$223

Received \$233 donation from MASISTA via Not Too Shaap, \$25 from individuals

Paid \$35 with State of Maine Annual Report filing

(3) MAC CCED Phase 1 grant status

no decision will be made by MAC until late July

topic for discussion: if we don't get the grant, should we proceed anyway and try to raise the \$10K to be matched by the Town?

(4) Option Fund fundraising report

We decided to send out some sort of update to those who have pledged funds with an report on the option, our thanks for their support and encouragement to continue that support

(5) Property C discussion

(a) May 21 event – Jane reported the May 21 event went well. Pledge-to-date total is \$29,900.

(b) Option – Ed reported on the Option agreement received from Glickman Foundation. The group discussed the terms of that agreement. Ed will meet with Glickman representative to request changes to the agreement and report back to the group before signing.

(c) Building Suitability – there was discussion of the ability of Property C to house the uses envisioned for an arts and cultural center, now that we have had more time to investigate.

- Freeport Players has been digging deeper into whether the building can provide adequate space for a financial feasible seating capacity in the performance space. The original goal was seating for 100+. In the current plans, seating capacity is at most 75. This raised concerns. Having undertaken further review, the Players reported that they believe a 75-seat space with the ceiling height and performance dimensions of the current sketch would be at the lower limit of financial, technical and creative feasibility for them. The Players are committed to working closely with the architects and others to see if there are ways to increase the seating capacity and dimensions without sacrificing other spaces. They will also try to bring other performance space users into the discussion to see if a 75-seat space is useful for them and therefore sustainable.
- Julie reported that overall, the assessment is that the visual arts uses seem doable. She has heard mixed reviews on the current sketches from the visual artists regarding the potential gallery space. Some think it will work, others are concerned there won't be enough actual wall space. Further work needs to be done to focus on the gallery space and see how much wall space can be found. She further reported that survey results show strong interest in rentable studio space and workshop/class opportunities.

CONSENSUS: At this point the Steering Committee agreed to proceed with the option and prioritize work on the building design to get those issues worked out as quickly as possible. We

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will need to establish a Use Allocation Committee. Julie and David have volunteered to be on that committee; others are interested as well.

(d) Miscellaneous

- new equipment/space ideas: high-end shared photo printer for photographers, sewing room with equipment for costume and fiber arts work
- critical lesson from Boothbay Opera House: do not compete with existing businesses in town
- expense to research in more detail: insurance, both during the option period and after a center is built – this is an important part of sustainability for the center and affordability for users

Nancy moved we adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:19pm.

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, June 28, 7pm, Town Hall. (Note that the steering committee usually meets on the first Thursday of the month. This meeting is being held sooner to keep up with new developments.)