

MINUTES
**TOWN OF DARIEN BOARD OF EDUCATION CENTRAL OFFICE/
MATHER CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 27, 2011

The regular meeting of the Town of Darien Board of Education Central Office/Mather Center Building Committee was held on April 27, 2011. Present were Chairman Norm Guimond, John Hertz, Louis Gesualdi and Elizabeth Hagerty-Ross. Also present was Town Administrator Karl Kilduff and BOE Facilities Director Hans Otto. Vice Chairman Robin Woods was absent.

Chairman Guimond called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Architect Report

Architect Tom Arcari provided the Committee with a draft building program to be discussed which was created from focus groups and interviews. Mr. Arcari described the draft program as a working document and feedback was still pending from the Senior Center Director.

The Committee reviewed with the architect each of the proposed program spaces and its possible uses, adjacencies and other considerations. Mr. Arcari summarized his report by stating that he finds the spaces needs defendable but there was still some flexibility in determining the area to be allocated. The program space to be provided would be slightly less than that provided for at present but the same program could be delivered.

The Committee briefly touched on the considerations for the senior center to also serve as a shelter. Requirements for a shelter versus a refuge were also reviewed for the Committee.

Chairman Guimond recognized members of the audience for questions. Lisa Thoren of the Darien Arts Center mentioned a comment she made to the architect that the project should provide for a community gallery spaces. It was noted that a possibility might exist at 35 Leroy for this amenity and building operational issues would have to be considered.

Gwen Mogenson of the Board of Finance questioned the capacity of the multipurpose room at 200 diners and the fact that the size of the kitchen was not proposed to change. Mr. Arcari stated that the kitchen would have to be sized to meet the service request. Planning was focused on delivering the minimum needed for regular operations.

Martha Banks of the Board of Finance advised the Building Committee to ask for actual attendance figures for programs when considering spaces to be provided. Mr. Arcari stated that he did review the data collected but it was only established recently and is not long enough to establish a pattern. Ms. Banks questioned the woodshop and stated only 2 people participated. Mr. Arcari responded that 6 people participated, it was a draw for male participation in the center and the space allocated was sufficient for 6 people and the necessary equipment. Ms. Thoren stated that if it was marketed to women she would like to participate in a woodshop program.

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b) Other Items Of Relevance to the Committee

The minutes for April 20, 2011, was moved by Mr. Hertz, seconded by Mr. Gesualdi, and approved unanimously with Ms. Hagerty-Ross abstaining.

Chairman Guimond reported on the progress of contracts with the architect and construction manager. Both were described as nearly completed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Karl F. Kilduff

Administrative Officer