

Town Center and Library Committee
Minutes November 2, 2023
7-8:30 p.m.

Present: Josh Arneson, Laurie Dana, Jeff Forward, Dave Healy, Jake Marin, Amy Wardwell

Community Members: Mary Houle, Judy Bush, Lisa Miller, Jonathan Klein

I. Welcome and Public Comment

Judy Bush asked for a correction to a false statement that was made at the October 26 Town Center & Library Building Committee Meeting. It was stated that Radiate Art Space was a for-profit business and that is not correct. Judy clarified the mission that Radiate Art Space is a nonprofit organization with the mission to provide opportunities and space to foster community building interactions through the arts for everyone, no matter age, ability or financial means. They took over the space and the 501(c) (3) status from the Richmond Area Teen Center in 2016. A longer statement from Judy is appended to these minutes.

She also stated that she felt some of the discussion at the October 26 meeting indicated that Radiate Art Space might be going out of business. Radiate is not going out of business and Judy pointed out that they have not received an eviction notice or been contacted about leaving the space. She was intrigued by comments at 10/26 meeting about how they could continue to be included in the building and that it is clear that the building cannot accommodate current space needs.

Laurie asked what they would need as a minimum and she stated that space similar in square footage to the Selectboard meeting room plus a storage closet and a wash sink would be the minimum needed. Laurie said that Rebecca had forwarded a detailed list from Radiate and she will forward that to Judy.

Jeff apologized for making the misstatement about the not-for-profit status of Radiate Art Space. He will do a correction in Front Porch Forum. The statement was not specifically included in the minutes from the October 26 meeting but these minutes include Judy's correction and statement.

II. Additions or Deletions to Agenda - None

III. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a) Debrief of Public Presentation of Proposed Town center Renovation Project

Jeff stated that he felt the presentation went well overall and we received many excellent comments and suggestions for improvement. All agreed that we need to shorten the presentation and that there was a lot of repetition that can be eliminated. Some specific comments included removing the extra slide before the costs slide, combining the Deficiencies, How the Design Corrects Deficiencies and Design Features slides into 1 or 2 slides (Jake has an idea how to do this). Amy had timed the various sections and felt that the opening about the historic part of the building could be shortened. The addition of more "stories" about the poor functioning of the building would be welcome too. Laurie pointed out that she had sent her comments in a document with the last minutes. Committee members should send suggested changes to Power Point slides to Jeff & Laurie and they will finalize the information.

Laurie mentioned that Rich Dana had made a couple of suggestions—first that we settle on language for flood stuff – not "flood proofing" but flood resiliency or reducing flood impacts. Committee liked flood resiliency. He also mentioned we should consider having a generator at the Town Center as the "command center" for emergencies and he asked about sump pumps in the basement to avoid having to pump.

b) Brainstorm and discuss public outreach plan including publicity

- Information Packet: Laurie will put together the Town Center Renovation Project documents as one pdf and forward to all for printing and for posting on the Committee's website. The package includes the site plan, floor plan, FAQ Cost Estimates (revised), the FAQ Text document (revised).

- Scheduled Public Presentations/Tours: The next scheduled Committee meeting on Nov. 16 from 7-8:30 p.m. will be an open meeting which will repeat the presentation. Jeff will query the Selectboard about having a meeting on Sunday 11/19 from 1-2:30 p.m. that they will be specially invited to – this can be another widely promoted public meeting which includes a tour and presentation. Jeff proposed doing building tours during the Saturday of the Book Sale at the Library—perhaps at 10 am and 2 pm. There would be no presentation but information packets could be available.
- Town Center Lobby display: It was suggested to have some information packets and a comment box to ask for feedback as part of the lobby display.
- Videotaping of presentation: Jeff will talk with Angelike from MMCTV about recording the presentation and editing both a “long” version and a 5-minute “highlights” version to be posted on the Committee’s page and promoted in FPF and other places.
- Flyer/FPF language: Laurie will put together a language for an email/FPF post and flyer that contains all of the upcoming presentation dates and how to find the online resources on our Committee page.
- Sandwich board: Linda will be asked to put presentation information on the sandwich board outside the Town Center.

c) Discuss elevation drawing

Andrew has provided an elevation drawing board which is on display in the lobby and can be used for the presentations.

d) Approve minutes for 10/12/23 and 10/26/23

e) Other business – None

f) Items for next agenda – October 26 meeting

Debrief on practice session on Public Presentation

Scheduling November Public Presentations

Consideration of approval of minutes from 10/12/23 and 10/26/23

8:30 PM IV. Adjourn

To: The Town Center and Library Building Committee

From Judy Bush, President of the Board of Directors Radiate Art Space

I would like to correct a false statement made at your last meeting and clarify another. I ask that a correction be made in the minutes and that a public correction and apology is made on Front Porch Forum.

Radiate Art Space is NOT a for profit business. It is a nonprofit organization with the mission to provide opportunities and space to foster community building interactions through the arts for everyone, no matter age, ability, or financial means. Radiate took over the space and the 501(c)(3) status from the Richmond Area Teen Center (RATC Nest) in 2016. Since 2016, Radiate has offered affordable & free art activities to all ages, donated paintings to the Town Center & Library buildings, and is in the process of trying to start an affordable after-school art program for grades K-4. The option for kids to take the bus to the Town Center from MMUSD schools is a huge luxury and the board & volunteers at Radiate are incredibly grateful to have had an affordable space in the center of town.

Radiate Art Space is not "going out of business" and does not intend to go out of business if it loses its current space. However, as of today we have not received an eviction notice nor have we received any formal notice of a date when it might happen.

We are intrigued by the suggestion of a possibility that there might be room for a community art space in the plan. As far as I know no one has ever talked to anyone at Radiate about what our minimum needs would be. I would be happy to meet with you at any time about this.