

Animal Shelter Building Committee
Meeting
April 18, 2012

The meeting of the Animal Shelter Building Committee was called to order by Chairman Gerry Craig at 7:02p.m. in Room 104 of Shelton City Hall, 54 Hill Street, Shelton, CT 06484 on Wednesday, April 18, 2012. The following members were in attendance: Gerry Craig, Irene McCoy, AJ Grasso, Roberta Reynolds, and Linda Hooper. Tony Minopoli and Steven Martino were absent. Sheryl Taylor was also in attended, along with Tom Muscato, Ann Scaniffe, and Wanda & Wilfredo DeJesus.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Recited

2. Public Participation

Tom Moscato & Ann Scaniffe of 15 Brewster Lane and Wanda & Wilfredo DeJesus of 17 Brewster Lane voiced their concerns about the close proximity of their homes to the animal shelter. Wanda said that to make matters worse their homes are unusual in that they do not face the street. They would face the shelter. Gerry stated that he had previous conversations with Tom. Wanda stated that she had attended meetings in the past and was told the shelter would be built on the site of the Pink Elephant. She stated that would have been ok with her, but now she is very concerned with the current building site. She said now have a view of the river and that building the shelter would greatly decrease their property values, saying that they probably couldn't give their homes away. Gerry explained the history of the site selection and that he stated that the site is not the decision of the committee. He also stated that the committee has kept them in mind as much as possible.

3. Approval of Minutes

AJ Grasso made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 21, 2012 meeting. Irene McCoy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

4. Communications

None

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

A. Bills Rendered

None

B. Report from Building Subcommittee

Gerry reported the subcommittee had been very busy since the last meeting, having several meetings with Bismark. Irene spoke about her visit to the Stratford Animal Shelter. She found it to be very clean, but did not like the fact that they had no outside runs. Roberta talked about her phone conversation with one of the officers. She said he complained of bad odors and said they went with no outdoor runs because the old shelter had no coverage and icing was a problem.

AJ said that we should move forward with getting funding. The committee can work out the finishing details because it won't significantly change the cost.

Wanda asked about the possibility of building on the site of the current shelter.

Gerry & AJ explained why that wouldn't work, primarily because it wouldn't fit. Linda brought up the boarding costs. Tom asked if cats would be housed in the new facility. Gerry said yes. In discussing the issue of no outside runs, AJ suggested larger windows and Gerry said with no outside runs, there would be less disease, better sanitation, and almost no noise. He passed out information on issues of sound and regulations.

C. Report from Bismark Construction

Greg Raucci and his son Greg represented Bismark. Greg Jr. spoke about his conversation with Nancy Jarvis of the State Dept. of Agriculture. He said she was excited that Shelton would be getting a new shelter and that the state requires 90 days to review the plans. Greg also spoke about the HVAC systems and windows. It was stated that Paul DeMauro wanted to push the building a little further towards the hill. It was pointed out that this would actually benefit the neighbors.

Greg Sr. passed out packets with the plans and the budget which was broken down by line item. He said the building would be asphalt shingles, dry wall/sheet rock interior, with masonry walls in kennel and epoxy paint. He said the metal buildings are not cost effective. He explained each heading. He stated that the City is doing much of the site work which will greatly reduce costs. He is also assuming the City will waive the permit fees.

He said he would allow \$15,000 for a buffer zone for the neighbors. It would consist of PVC screen wall/fence with plantings on the neighbors' side. Stainless steel in kennels could also be added as a line item because it requires much less maintenance.

Linda stated that she liked the packet. She felt it was well prepared and presented. She asked how long it would take to build. Greg said 7 months. He said that once the City agrees, he can work on designations to get things approved concurrently while the State is taking 90 days to review. Irene asked about perimeter fencing. Greg answered that there will be a security system as well as fire alarm and outside lighting. He said that perimeter fencing could certainly be added. Sheryl stated her concerns about broken windows and the close proximity to the skate park. Gerry said the windows would be tempered glass. AJ suggested a line item for perimeter fencing of chain link.

Wanda said she would have appreciated a letter to the neighbors keeping them informed of the situation. She again stated the Mayor Lauretti told her the shelter would be on the site of the Pink Elephant. AJ suggested that the neighbors should talk to Mayor Lauretti and attend a Board of Aldermen meeting.

Greg asked Sheryl the hours of operation of the current shelter. She stated Monday thru Friday from 8am to 3pm, no weekends. However, the kennel worker is there on the weekend.

It was decided that the subcommittee and Bismark would meet with the Mayor and Paul DiMauro.

D. Other

Linda said she was contacted by John Anglace. He wanted the committee to know that Bill Bures no longer lives in Shelton. It was stated that the committee went through the process to officially remove him as a member of the committee in September of 2010.

7. Adjournment

AJ Grasso made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Linda Hooper seconded it. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail S. Craig

Clerk

Minutes done from notes and audio tape. Tape will be submitted to City/Town Clerk.