

Greenwich Board of Education Minutes of the GHS Front Entry Committee Meeting

DATE: January 19th, 2022

LOCATION: Virtual via Google Meet

TIME: 8:00 am

Committee Members Present:

Stephen Walko - Chairman

Jake Allen- Vice Chairman

Maureen Bonanno-Secretary

Ashley Cole

Louis Contadino

Stephanie Cowie

Christina Downey (BOE)

Leslie Moriarty (BET)

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Craig Amundson (RTM)

Ralph Mayo (GHS Principal)

Will Schwartz (DPW)

Dennis Yeskey (P&Z)

Steven Swidler (BOE Staff)

Tom Bobkowski (BOE - Central Office)

Dan Watson (BOE- Central Office)

Others Present:

David Stein (Silver Petrucelli)

Tim Nanzer (Silver Petrucelli)

Not Present:

Lauren Rabin (Board of Selectmen)

Megan Galleta

- **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Walko at 8:00 a.m
- **Presentation on Site Plan by Silver Petrucelli:**
 - Mr. Stein began with a presentation on the site plan. The presentation shows the existing landscape along with new landscaping.
 - Silver Petrucelli's suggestion would be to work with a landscape architect to create a layering of larger vegetation, or a cluster of plantings that would be a layering effect to have a buffer from the street.
 - Mr. Stein noted that since many of the trees drop their leaves during winter, it is important to choose dense trees. They would also work with the Greenwich Tree Conservancy.

- Silver Petrucelli is also suggesting rework the plaza slightly, opening up the area to make room for more plantings and layering.
- Mr. Stein noted the 30 inch light bollards in the schematic. He stated that the bollards direct the light downward.
- Mr. Stein stated that the need to work with BOE to eliminate or lower some existing shoebox lights that are mounted high.
- Mr. Stein also indicated that there are removable bollards which would allow emergency vehicles to enter. The bollards come in any powder coat finish.
- Mr. Stein stated that the plaza would ensure there is ADA accessibility.
- Mr. Walko stated that since the last meeting, he has reached out to the chief of police, to schedule a meeting on safety, which will include a discussion on the . bollards.
- Mr. Walko also stated that he met with Superintended on interior lighting at GHS to get better clarity as to how the lighting works at GHS. In working with Mr. Bobkowski, he should have an update on the interior lighting as it relates to plan.
- **Discussion on Site Plan:**
 - Ms. Downey expressed her concern with P&Z and ARC that we are locking ourselves into something before we know the budget or have worked with a landscape architect and they approve the plan with the additional trees, which we may not have funding for.
 - Mr. Walko responded that everything shown, other than the additional trees, is required. He added that they will make sure that P&Z is fully aware that the presentation is what we would like to have. If they make it a condition of the project, we will need to make decisions on the budget.
 - Ms. Moriarty asked about the meeting on security with Mr. Bobkowski and other town officials. She was interested in Mr. Bobkowski's input on the landscaping from a security standpoint. Ms. Moriarty noted that, before we go to P&Z, we should have a better understanding of the requirements.
 - Mr. Bobkowski responded that he is meeting next week with S&P to review the entryway and plaza. At that time they will review the cameras and trees and for security. He added that they don't want trees 3 feet away from the building and the sight line cannot be blocked.
 - Mr. Walko asked Mr. Bobkowski if the current design looks sufficient from a security standpoint and Mr. Bobkowski responded that it did.
 - Ms. Moriarty asked if the design shown to P&Z should be adjusted to reflect the security requirements.
 - Ms. Cole stated that she is most concerned with trees along the street. She added that there are no studies that show that trees are a hindrance to security.
 - Mr. Walko asked S&P if we should remove some of the smaller, newer plantings for the presentation to P&Z, and we can add them in later if necessary.
 - Mr. Stein noted that currently there is a row of dense boxwood hedges that block this area, where someone could hide, making it a security risk. They were trying to thin out that area. He added that the state guidelines do require thinning out any vegetation that is dense.

- Mr. Stein added that the landscape architect will review to see how high the canopy goes, but he will adjust the presentation for the purposes of the meeting with P&Z.
- Ms. Cowie stated there needs to be a commitment by Parks and Rec that they will maintain the landscaping.
- Ms. Cole agreed with Ms. Cowie and suggested that the high school should get its own maintenance team.
- Mr. Contadino stated that from ARC's point of view, this is just a concept idea since we don't know any species or details yet, however, we are addressing their concerns.
- Mr. Contadino asked if there were details on bollards to present tonight and Mr. Stein responded yes.
- Mr. Bobkowski stated part of the safety plan that the state of CT put out includes the National School Facility Safety checklist which includes vegetation around buildings. One of the restrictions states that any trees placed near buildings will not grant access, now or in the future, any 2nd story access or roof access and will allow a clean line of sight.
- **Presentation on Lighting:**
 - Mr. Stein stated that the latest design shows the elimination of the intermediary beams and added a concrete base. He noted that the tail end of the rafters are slightly angled and between each of the bays, they are wrapped in a white aluminum face. The windows also white aluminum with security glazed framing. He noted that the white compliments the wood and provides a lighter balance.
 - Mr. Stein noted that the pavers have been brought a bit closer to the building and the existing seats need to be cleaned up.
 - Mr. Stein stated that at the last meeting, the committee had decided to focus on two options with lighting which he will present today. In Option 1 there is an LED light strip on the bottom of the beam which provides a concentration of light downward and Option 2, has LED lights built into soffit above with the lights that also shine downward
- **Discussion on Lighting:**
 - Ms. Cole noted that the neighbors should be pleased with the downlighting, however, she is concerned with the light strip compromising the look of the beam.
 - Mr. Stein stated that Option 1 provides an architecturally interesting solution and ties into what exists in the corridor.
 - Ms. Downey stated that in Option 2 when the light is tucked into the soffit it gets a little lost and believes that it is more interesting when embedded in the beam. She added that from a security point of view, Option 1 may be better.
 - Mr. Contadino prefers Option 1, with the lighting under the rafters, but stated there may be pushback from ARC because we are illuminating building features. He added that we may need to have Option 2 as an alternative.
 - Mr. Walko then stated, from a timing perspective, we need approval on lighting in order to move the project forward. He added that if we decide on the lighting under the beam, there might be some pushback, so the committee will discuss

the idea of presenting two options. He added that there will first be a vote on whether the committee would like Option 1 or Option 2.

- Ms. Bonanno asked from a security standpoint if there is a difference between the 2 options and Mr. Stein showed a rendering of the foot candles just outside the doors. He noted from a security perspective, the lights are not that brilliant that it will block any view and the cameras would be positioned farther out.

- **Motions to Approve the Outdoor Lighting Options:**

Motion was made by Christina Downey and seconded by Jake Allen to approve Option 1, with the light under the beam.

The motion was approved. *The Motion Passed 6-0-2*

- Mr. Walko then asked for a motion to authorize Mr. Stein to present Option 2 at his discretion, if necessary.

Motion was made by Jake Allen and seconded by Leslie Moriarty to authorize S&P to disclose to ARC the Option 2 as an alternative. The motion was approved. *The Motion Passed 8-0-0*

- **Discussion on the Outdoor Lighting Options:**

- Mr. Stein discussed the best way to present this to ARC.
- Mr. Contadino noted his concern with presenting 2 options upfront to ARC.
- Ms. Cole noted that Option 1 may be a concern for the neighbors as there is more light at the top. Mr. Stein noted that the amount of the light is the same, it is the position of the light in Option 1, where you can see the fixture vs. Option 2 where you cannot see the fixture.

- **Adjourn:**

- The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Walko at 8:58 am.

Submitted by Maureen Bonanno on January 20th, 2022