

Brooks Memorial Library

Minutes of Strategic Planning Committee, Nov. 16, 2021

Present: Leo Schiff, Kate O'Connor, Howard Burrows, Jane Southworth, Karen Tyler, Ann Varilly, Starr LaTronica, Jeanne Walsh, Olivia Mastria, JoJo Kauffman

Ann called the hybrid meeting to order in the Community Meeting Room and online. Minutes were approved as written. No changes to the agenda and no public comments.

Continuing Business: Next Steps in Planning Process

Update on revised survey

We offered feedback and editorial comments on the survey draft. Olivia and JoJo will put up a draft in Survey Monkey so we can try it.

Update on exploring potential of paid consultants

Several committee members identified possible consultants. We also talked about costs and value for our investments of money and effort. Would we get something substantially different if we engage a consultant, especially one with a high fee?

Starr noted that Sue Fillion can visit our committee to help us with the planning process if we like. It could be helpful if we opt for a process where we handle most of the work.

We discussed the pros and cons of the different approaches. We noted that one of the lessons of recent years is that change happens quickly. Question for consultants: do they approach planning differently since COVID?

One of the consultants has a menu of services. Perhaps we can use a piece of a consultant's work to enhance our process. We should also make sure we include a local consultant among those we consider.

Big thinking and forward motion. The staff report that they use the plan in their daily work. Prepare an RFP? Maybe wait until we talk to Sue, who might bring new insight. Agreed.

Who will maintain a list of stakeholders for involvement?

Maybe dedicate part of the next meeting to brainstorming. Also, Sue might have a list. Howard also recommends a list from the Aspen Institute, which he will share.

Next meeting: Weds, Dec. 8th at 4:45. This is tentative until Starr confirms with Sue Fillion.