

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special worksession on Friday, June 10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Those present were: Mayor Dick Gee
Vice Mayor Bill Wallace
Councilmember Chris Howley
Councilmember Bill Lusk

Others present were: Town Manager Boyd Veal
Town Recorder Carol White
MACC Director Barb Storm
See attached list for others present

Mayor Gee led the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was observed.

Discussion

The Council discussed the difference between services provided by the Mountain Arts Community Center (MACC) and the building those services are currently housed in. They discussed the possibility of presenting the current services from a different facility if necessary.

Councilmember Lusk said that the original building is important to Town residents and that both the building and the MACC functions are important to the community.

Councilmember Howley said that he is not sure that expending \$1.2 to \$1.4 million to renovate the front of the facility will get the building to where the Council wants it to be. He reminded the Council that additional expenses will be incurred to accommodate programs as renovations to the front historic building A will not provide adequate space for the services offered by the MACC. He said that if the Town spends \$1.4 million it has to be a spectacular building and suggested moving the Town Hall to that location and turning the current Town Hall location in to an athletic/sport complex.

Town Manager, Boyd Veal informed the Council that the 2009 deed transferring the MACC facility from the County's Board of Education to the Town has not been recorded at the Register of Deeds office. He said that while a copy of the signed deed is in the Town's records, the original document has not yet been located. Mr. Veal explained that Town Attorney, Phil Noblett has spoken with the attorney for the Board of Education who will present the deed at the Board's next meeting. Mr. Noblett told Mr. Veal that he has been assured there will be no difficulty in obtaining new signatures in order to complete the deed transfer.

The Council discussed their desire to provide adequate space for the current programs and to ensure a gathering space for community needs. Councilmember Howley questioned the cost of providing that space at the current facility. He said he would be in favor of allowing that question to be answered by the residents through a referendum vote in November.

Council discussed the fact that programs offered by the MACC are currently handicapped by lack of space, since the majority of the MACC building is now closed.

Dan Landrum, Georgia Avenue, spoke in favor of continuing the MACC programs for the gap they fill in educational development needs.

Judy Nowlin, Palisades Drive, spoke in favor of continuing the MACC programs especially as they relate to the elderly in the community.

Noah Long, Woodcliff Circle, spoke in support of the MACC programs. He said he supported keeping the front façade of Building A and removing the remaining buildings to be replaced with new purpose built facilities.

Mary Hutson, James Boulevard spoke in support of the MACC programs. She asked the Council to consider the findings of the Town's Land Use Plan.

Sandy McCrea, Whippoorwill Drive, spoke in support of the MACC programs.

Becky Pope, Hollister Road, spoke in support of the MACC programs.

Councilmember Lusk said it would be beneficial to use the Land Use Plan in the Council's deliberations. He said the Land Use Plan meetings were well attended and that process might be helpful with the current MACC issues.

Councilmember Howley said that a lot has changed in the 8 years since the plan was developed. He spoke of the need to update the plan to help garner support from the community for the MACC. Councilmember Howley said that he feels there is currently community support of the MACC. He expressed his concern that such support might be more difficult to secure in the future if the Town is forced to increase property tax or reduce services because of the financial challenges facing the Town due to the reduction and eventual loss of the Hall tax.

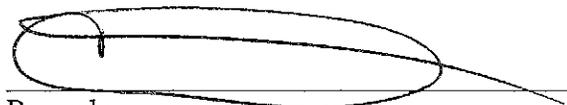
Mayor Gee said he believes the community will be willing to support the cost of the MACC. The Council discussed the possibility of various fund raising options.

Mayor Gee asked Mr. Veal to place a resolutions on the next regular meeting agenda to repair the historic building A and to demolish the rest of the buildings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Dick Gee, Mayor



Recorder