

Foundry Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Friday, October 11, 2019, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Cambridge Police Department, 125 Sixth Street

FAC members in attendance: Jamie Sabino, Marie Saccoccio, Mark Tang, Joyce Chen, Carole Sousa, Richard Thal

CRA, City of Cambridge and others in Attendance: Tom Evans, Erica Schwarz, Kathryn Madden, Robert Garner, Betsy Boyle, Stefanie Green, Jennifer Mathews, Ron Mallis, Brad Vernatter, Heather Hoffman, Ron Peoples, Carole Watkins, Sue Cusack, Fred Fantini, Robert St. Lawrence

1. Welcome

We welcomed the two new FAC members to their first FAC meeting: Carole Sousa and Joyce Chen. Each FAC member shared a few details about their experience and knowledge that brought them to the committee.

2. Design and Construction

Robert Garner of the City of Cambridge shared an update of the construction timeline:

- Demolition of the interior and some early abatement will start in November 2019
- Design Development will go through December 2019
- The Construction Documents phase will start in early 2020
- During this time, the City will pursue permitting
- Occupancy is expected in summer 2021

3. Overview of October 2nd public meeting

Stefanie Greenfield of Cambridge Seven Architects presented updates to the design with slides that were also shared at the October 2nd public meeting. Significant updates are:

- Acoustic separation that will allow the 2nd and 3rd floor office spaces to view the rest of the building through glass walls, but not be disturbed by sound from the first floor activities.
- Challenge of balancing how much to design the building vs. letting the future uses and users finish the space with their own work.
- Proposal for Rogers Street to become one-way

There were questions and a discussion of design, on topics including:

- Need for wayfinding signs inside the first floor and notices outlining the various activities happening at any given time
- Interest in seeing an option for shades on some multi-purpose rooms, which otherwise have some glass walls. This is important if there will be programs in those spaces with

populations who are not comfortable being public (such as undocumented immigrants), as well as useful for some programs that may want to shut out light.

- How can we make the courtyard flexible for multiple kinds of programming, and also inviting for kids to climb on any structures there (even though it will not be a formal playground), but also secure?

4. Foundry Consortium

Betsy Boyle of Lemelson-MIT announced that the Foundry Consortium is now officially incorporated in Massachusetts and is awaiting confirmation of its 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. The new organization has an 8-person board of directors to start. The bylaws allow up to 15 board members, allowing the board to grow over time. The board was recruited and finalized by the Foundry Consortium, with feedback provided by the CRA and City Manager's office. The new Foundry Consortium board will hold its first board meeting in November.

FAC members identified the need for some representation of elder interests and also noted that there needs to be a greater percentage of Cambridge residents on the board to meet the By-Laws.

5. Future Relationship between FAC and Foundry Consortium Nonprofit

FAC members reviewed the page from the Foundry Consortium bylaws (section 3.7) which require that FAC members and the Foundry Consortium Board of Directors hold at least one joint meeting a year to allow the Board of Directors "to benefit from direct feedback from FAC members".

It was noted that the bylaws also describe a "Strategic Advisory Committee" which is a non-voting body that can provide strategic advice and feedback to the Board of Directors. Betsy Boyle explained that this group enables more community members to be involved in a leadership role with the Foundry. Members of the informal Foundry Consortium who are not on the Board of Directors will be invited to join this committee, as well as other community members with relevant skills, knowledge or energy to devote to this effort.

The role of the Foundry Advisory Committee will continue as it is now, making recommendations to the City and the CRA to ensure that the ongoing operations meet the project vision and objectives. In response to a question about what the portal for use will be, the CRA noted that the FAC had previously discussed Use Principles and that a draft of those could be distributed for further review and discussion.

There was a lengthy conversation about who will come to the Foundry and who is attending meetings about the project now. There was strong concern that underrepresented populations are not being engaged deeply enough, particularly since the Foundry is meant to benefit them and they may not otherwise have access to many of the types of programs that will be at the Foundry or don't feel comfortable accessing programs in the heart of Kendall Square

Faculty and students from Lesley University, a Foundry Consortium member, did extensive outreach to learn about interests in programming for the Foundry earlier in 2019, connecting with a wide range of nonprofit organizations, churches, and directly with other residents, such as those in the Community Engagement Team. It was acknowledged that these relationships need

to continue to be cultivated, as well as ensure that publicity about Foundry related meetings and events is disseminated in the Port, Central Square, at senior centers, churches, and other places where local residents will go.

It was noted that some residents are not comfortable attending meetings at the Police Department – where FAC meetings are held. Erica Schwarz noted that the CRA had intended to bring the question of FAC meeting location to this meeting, as the CRA has also heard this concern. Future meetings will be held elsewhere, perhaps targeting the agencies that Lesley University contacted. Sue Cusack of Lesley University noted that locating meetings at those agencies may have the added benefit of drawing in residents who naturally visit those spaces regularly, helping to build more resident connections with the Foundry. For the January meeting, CRA staff will seek space at the senior center in Central Square.

Joyce Chen and Marie Saccoccio volunteered to distribute flyers for the October 25th Foundry event in Central Square and at nearby Churches, respectively.

It was mentioned that future staff of the Foundry Consortium will also have a responsibility for continuing to maintain relationships with community-based organizations and individual residents in order to create lasting connections between the Foundry and all segments of the local community. They will not be able to do this on their own, however, and the role of the FAC is to also be a connector to local communities and constituencies.

6. FAC Meeting Schedule in 2020:

The 2020 meetings schedule was reviewed. The standing time for the meeting in April is Good Friday. The CRA will poll the committee to find an alternative date, in addition to identifying new locations for meetings.

Friday January 10th, 8:00 am

Friday, April 10th, 8:00 am – *to be moved due to Good Friday to April 3rd or 17th*

Friday, July 10th, 8:00 am

Friday October 9th, 8:00 am

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.