

Foundry Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Friday, November 3, 2023, 9:30 am

In person at the Foundry and via Zoom

FAC Members in Attendance: Connie Chin, Ruben Mancha, Lauren O'Neal, Sangeeta Prasad, Jameson Johnson (*Absent:* Barbara Thomas, Katheleen Williams)

CRA Staff: Tom Evans, Matthew Heller-Trulli, Gardy Laurent

Foundry Consortium Staff: Nikoi Coley-Ribeiro

Agenda

- Capital Improvement and commercial lease updates
- CRA Board presentation prep & discussion
- Adjourn

Capital Improvement and Commercial Lease Updates

Matt Heller-Trulli provided an update to the FAC that the CRA is close to signing a lease for the remainder of the commercial office space on the third floor of the Foundry. He said that although the CRA is unable to disclose the name of the organization that they are talking to, he did say that they are a non-profit that works in STEM education. This is positive as it is an area that the FAC has been wanting to see more activation from. Mr. Heller-Trulli agreed that this is a positive step forward for both the commercial office space and for the community space as this tenant will run programs within the community space, further activating STEM programming there.

Lauren O'Neal asked if the existing tenants have been able to utilize the community space and how often they do. Nikoi Coley-Ribeiro responded that some of the tenants hold meetings and other events in the community space. As an example, Break Through Cancer has had various meetings in Shop 6 and The Point.

Tom Evans announced to the group that the Foundry building has achieved LEED Gold certification. This has been achieved through many factors of the design and construction but one large contributing factor is that the building is all electric. This technology is newer and poses its own challenges which we are working to understand and troubleshoot as they appear.

CRA Board Presentation Prep & Discussion

Mr. Heller-Trulli explained that the FAC will be presenting at the November CRA Board meeting on November 15. This presentation will be a collaboration between the FAC members and discuss community recommendations from the previous year that they hope can be implemented in the coming year.

Mr. Heller-Trulli used the PowerPoint presentation that two working groups put together to review the topics of discussion that the FAC wants to bring to the attention of the CRA Board. He goes on to suggest that one FAC member should give this presentation to the CRA Board. Mr. Evans suggests that if the FAC wants to split up the discussion, the slides can be split up between multiple members.

Mr. Heller-Trulli reminded the FAC that most of the CRA Board members have been through the entire Foundry design and construction process and have a good idea about the structure of the building but this is the first time that the FAC has presented to the CRA Board in this capacity of the operation stage.

Mr. Heller-Trulli proceeded to review the PowerPoint presentation and gauge feedback from the FAC on what items should be kept, amended, removed, or added.

Tom Evans brought up the possibility of the FAC hosting listening sessions next year as another way to gain additional community feedback and allow for the FAC to hear directly from those that use the space. The CRA would set up the meetings and do the outreach but the FAC would run the listening session and interact directly with the community.

Nikoi Coley-Ribeiro told the group that the Foundry Consortium collects feedback and reviews from groups that use the community spaces. Sangeeta Prasad says that it would be good for the FAC to be able to see the feedback that the Foundry Consortium gets from these groups.

Connie Chin wondered what the best form of outreach would be to gain feedback about the Foundry either alongside or in place of listening sessions at The Foundry. Chin suggested that it might be better to hold listening sessions outside of The Foundry building in order to gain different audiences than we would normally get near or at the building.

Jameson Johnson suggested that it might be worth partnering with other organizations in the area to gain feedback and provide outreach about gaining feedback on Foundry operations and programming.

At this point, the meeting was interrupted by a Zoom bomb and the meeting was paused.

Once the meeting was restarted, Sangeeta Prasad asked how we should structure the agendas for future FAC meetings. The slides at the end of the PowerPoint show the wishes for what the FAC wants to see at each meeting. Prasad believes we need to work out a more formal mechanism to work the data gathering into the FAC meetings. Prasad asked who generates the agenda for each FAC meeting and Tom Evans responded that since there is no chair of the FAC, the CRA sets the initial agenda based on talking points from the previous FAC meeting and other updates that had come up. Staff send the proposed agenda out to the FAC for feedback.

Matt Heller-Trulli continued to review the slides that the FAC has put together, working towards the final essence of a presentation. In order to finish the presentation for the CRA Board meeting, Heller-Trulli said that he will make the noted changes to the presentation and send the slides out to the FAC members for their final changes. Heller-Trulli requested that the final presentation changes from the FAC be sent back to him by Thursday, November 9 by noon.

Adjourn

- The meeting ended at 10:55 AM.

Contact List and Links

FAC webpage HERE: The CRA has a web page dedicated to the Foundry Advisory Committee, including the current list of **FAC members**. It also includes agendas, minutes, and meeting handouts for current and past meetings.

<https://www.cambridgeredevelopment.org/foundry-advisory-committee>

CRA/Foundry webpage HERE: The CRA Foundry page has information on construction, leasing, operations, as well as a compendium of all documents related to the Foundry.

<https://www.cambridgeredevelopment.org/foundry>

Foundry Consortium webpage HERE: this site is evolving to include information about reservations, spaces and events. Consider following the Foundry on Instagram and/or Facebook. Be sure to check these sources regularly to follow the activities.

<https://www.cambridgefoundry.org/>



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