CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH
LIBRARY LECTURE HALL DESIGN COMMITTEE
MINUTES

100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Coast Room (Bay 2D)
Tuesday, October 8, 2019 8:00 AM

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Matthew Witte (arrived late), Vice Chair Janet Ray, Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker, Karen Clark, Mayor Diane Dixon

Absent: None.

III. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC/ PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Debbie Stevens, resident of Harbor View Hills, asked whether the Committee would be recommending one architect to City Council. She noted both architects have conceptual ideas and if the Committee is also choosing those conceptual ideas. She wanted to confirm that the public would be involved in determining the design.

Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker stated the Committee would like to recommend one architect to City Council and that the architect would probably start from scratch.

Mr. Jim Mosher commended City staff on producing more informative minutes but noted some concerns with the name spellings in the meetings. He asked whether the presentations would be posted on the website for the public to see.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Matthew Witte, and was seconded by Mayor Diane Dixon, to approve the *Draft Minutes of the September 19, 2019, Library Lecture Hall Design Committee Meeting*.

The motion carried 5-0 with the following vote:

AYES: Matthew Witte, Vice Chair Janet Ray, Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker, Karen Clark, Mayor Diane Dixon
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

V. CURRENT BUSINESS

1. Design Subcommittee Report

Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker noted that she and Committee Member Matthew Witte White reviewed the presentations and discussed whether follow-up was necessary. She stated both teams offer a broad understanding of what the Committee hopes to achieve.

Committee Member Matthew Witte opined the process has been very thorough and noted both principals at the firms have been very involved. He stated he is very comfortable with the two firms that have been chosen. He noted both are small firms but with diverse architecture types.

Committee Member Matthew Witte also noted both firms have experience with auditoriums. He noted Bob Coffee's firm is local and one with whom they have worked in the past. Ultimately, he stated he would be happy with selecting either firm.

Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker stated she is enthusiastic about both firms.

Mayor Diane Dixon asked Committee Member Matthew Witte how the two firms are different.

Committee Member Matthew Witte noted Sanders Architects Firm is more avant garde whereas Robert Coffee Architects is more traditional. He noted Robert Coffee thought of an idea related to parking that no one else considered, and that the re-configured parking lot showed innovation on the part of RCA.

2. Committee Discussion of Request for Proposal Proposals, Presentations and Responses to Additional Questions

Vice Chair Janet Ray raised the concern that Sanders Architects and his team haven't built a building together. She was also concerned that they did not incorporate changes to the parking lot to address the sense of arrival. She felt that Robert Coffee's presentation was thorough and beautiful but that Sanders had creative ideas regarding the shape of the hall.

Committee Member Karen Clark noted she thought Robert Coffee's team was the best. She particularly appreciated Robert Coffee's team's thorough response to the LLH's follow-up questions.

Mayor Diane Dixon noted she was also impressed by Robert Coffee's team. She also commented on Coffee's team's price and that it is significantly less than that of the other architectural team.. She also stated she is concerned about the two firms in the Sander's team who have never worked together. Finally, Robert Coffee's work is known in the City and he has a good reputation. Mayor Diane Dixon noted they want a distinctive building but above-all, a functional building.

Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker stated she believes Robert Coffee understands the direction the Committee would like to take. She agreed that foremost the LLH is seeking a building design that functions well.

Committee Member Matthew Witte asked what the process will be post-selection.

Peter Tauscher noted the City could be flexible regarding meeting frequency and also form subcommittees if needed. He stated he would like as much input as possible.

Committee Member Matthew Witte noted both firms would be receptive to the Committee's comments and opinions.

Peter Tauscher reminded that committee that the RFP included fifteen meetings and more can be added.

Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker stated a more formal calendar would be put together for the project.

Mayor Diane Dixon asked what the next step is and what the Council will be asked to approve.

Peter Tauscher noted the item to be approved by Council would have to do with payment to the contractor.

Committee Member Matthew Witte spoke about contractor fees and payment.

Mayor Diane Dixon asked about the meeting when the project will be presented and she stated the public needs to be involved.

The Committee discussed whether the project would be a consent item or a study session.

Peter Tauscher noted the Council meeting was changed and will be November 19th.

The Committee discussed the contract may not be ready until January.

Mayor Diane Dixon noted community support is key. She spoke about fundraising and the comfort it will provide Council to see community support.

Committee Member Witte noted both firms spoke about their experience fundraising.

Debbie Stevens from the public spoke and stated she is supportive of selecting Robert Coffee's firm.

Jim Mosher noted he agrees with the Committee because the Sanders Group was too avant garde. Additionally, Mr. Mosher was surprised the Sanders team had not built anything together. He suggested that Council be provided with a timeline for the design phase.

3. Adopt resolution recommending architect to City Council, or take action regarding the proposals

A motion was made by Vice Chair Janet Ray, and was seconded by Committee Chair Karen Clark, to select Robert Coffee as the architect for the lecture hall.

The motion carried 5-0 with the following vote:

AYES: Matthew Witte, Vice Chair Janet Ray, Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker, Karen Clark, Mayor Diane Dixon
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Committee Member Matthew Witte noted Mondays are easier for him to meet and also opined that the public should know that once the design is selected, it is very expensive to make changes.

The Committee discussed making Mondays available for meetings regarding the project.

VI. MATTERS WHICH COMMITTEE MEMBERS WOULD LIKE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION OR REPORT (NON-DISCUSSION ITEM)

No matters were proposed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Johnson-Tucker adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

APPROVED BY:

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Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker

DRAFT