

## **Blair Square Committee**

**June 17, 2019**

### **Minutes**

This was a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen in their chambers. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

Present: P. Barbieri, J. Errickson, S. Lively, G. Rice, M. Ellis, I. Daniels

Inge Daniels showed the board of selectmen a drawing which represented the concepts of the committee thus far. Inge also mentioned that this drawing was showing the area about half way between Central and Exchange Streets. Mark Ahronian suggested that we should go as far as Vine Street if at all possible.

The open space area on the drawing is needed to accommodate all types of uses. A possible amphitheater with some seating available with steps, some bollards on the Central Street side as well as on the path that crosses the area.

Mark Ahronian said that this is a once in a life time opportunity to make the area useful for everyone. He thought that we needed restrooms for the area, just like we have a Stoddard Park and Goodwill Park. There was a great deal of discussion around this issue with several people commenting that this might not be such a good idea. Also the size of the restrooms was discussed as to how much area that might take. Peter Barbieri told the board that he had offers to have a railroad car turned into restrooms and that all the work to make that happen would be donated, including a septic system. Also discussed, was the idea that maybe volunteers could be used to monitor the restrooms. There was substantial discussion on the subject of maintenance for bathrooms once established. No commitments were made but several solutions were discussed.

Jamie Errickson spoke on the pros and cons of having restrooms and that maybe we should develop the area without restrooms and then see if they are actually needed.

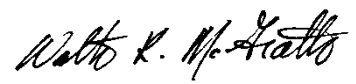
The committee asked the board for some guidelines on how far they wanted us to extend toward Exchange Street. John Cronin suggested that the committee look into lighting in the area.

Ed Daniels from the Friends of the Rail Trail spoke in opposition of the restrooms as an abutter to the area. He was also concerned about some of the activities proposed for the area, such as concerts etc.

The committee informed the board that it was our intent to come up with a proposed concept for the area and then seek public input. The committee thanked the board for its time and input.

A motion was made by P. Barbieri, seconded by Errickson to adjourn the joint meeting at 8:15 pm. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter R. McGrath". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Walter" and last name "McGrath" clearly distinguishable.

Walter R. McGrath, Clerk