

City of Norwalk  
Museum Restructuring Committee  
August 1, 2012

DRAFT

Attendance: Judith Bacal, James Clark, David Park, Scott Wands, David Westmoreland

Guests: Ralph Bloom, Holly Cuzzone

Meeting was called to order at 5:30. The meeting minutes from July 24<sup>th</sup> were amended and approved, with Mr. Wands abstaining.

The location matrix was reviewed. Committee members discussed and noted the pros and cons of the museum space in SoNo, the Lockwood House, archives to Norwalk Library and Health Dept space. Updates will be made by Ms. Bacal. Mr. Westmoreland will work on getting square footages by floor to add to the matrix for both the Lockwood House and the SONO Museum location.

Mr. Westmoreland noted that he measured the Dunn's hardware exhibit per Ms. Brescia's request. The tallest cabinets are over 10 feet, but the top three-foot section comes off, leaving only 7 feet, which would allow much of the exhibit to be installed in other locations, such as the basement of the Lockwood House or Fodor Farm.

The next steps document was reviewed and discussed.

Mr. Wands reported that apparently the Norwalk Museum had an archive assessment completed by the State Library within the past couple of years. He is working on getting a copy of this released to the committee.

Mr. Clark asked how we address the longer-term mission of the museum?

Mr. Westmoreland suggested that while we will present interim or short-term recommendations in September, we need to find outside expertise, along with appropriate costs, to help put together a real, viable long-term plan for the museum, whether it remains in SONO or moves to Lockwood House. This would include determining the scope and mission of the museum and then putting together a plan to implement that.

Mr. Wands suggested that we use some or all of the 10-12 hours that the Museum has allocated to it by Don Mueller, through the STEPS program to put the outline of a plan together and identify the expertise and costs we need.

Mr. Westmoreland also recommended that we begin to draft a report that provides the context and narrative for the committee's analysis and recommendations. He volunteered to begin the draft report over the next several weeks.

Ms. Cuzzone asked to address the committee and suggested the following:

1. Over the years, there have been many programs that have brought schoolchildren to City Hall, including tours of the WPA Murals. These could be expanded to include the Museum if it were to move to the Lockwood House.
2. Ms. Cuzzone felt that the Dunn's Hardware exhibit was important enough to be located on the first floor of the Museum at the Lockwood House.
3. Ms. Cuzzone has contacts for firms involved in relocating the Fairfield Museum as well as the Peabody Museum at Yale.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.

**Next Meetings**

August 14

August 21

August 28