

**..MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
(LIBRARY LOCATION) OF MAYOR AND
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF STONE
HARBOR HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
APRIL 18, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Walters at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Suzanne M. Walters, Mayor
Suzanne C. Stanford, Borough Clerk
Michael Donohue, Attorney
Jill Gougher, Administrator

PRESENT

Councilmembers
Joan Kramar, President
Judith Davies-Dunhour
Joselyn O. Rich
Karen M. Lane
Barry D. Mastrangelo
Albert Carusi

Mayor Walters announced that the meeting was now open. Adequate notice of the meeting was provided by posting a copy of the time and place on the Municipal Clerk's bulletin board and advertising and mailing a copy of same to the Press and the Cape May County Herald on April 3, 2012.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Walters thanked everyone for attending to learn about the possible sites for the location of Stone Harbor's new library and turned the meeting over to Councilmember Rich, Chairperson of the Library Location Committee.

Councilmember Rich thanked everyone for coming as well and stated that this is a Stone Harbor Meeting – it is about Stone Harbor and for Stone Harbor. Councilmember Rich reported that the Committee consisted of herself, Councilmember Davies-Dunhour and Councilmember Mastrangelo and was charged with recommending the location for a library facility in Stone Harbor.

Councilmember Rich stated that she is happy that the County is working with the Borough and its residents to determine the specific design and characteristics of the building as well as the location. Councilmember Rich reported that the Committee considered seven (7) sites for the location of the library, all of which are Borough-owned properties and include: 80th Street Marina, Vacant Land at 80th-81st Street on Third Avenue, 80th Street Recreation Area, Vacant Lane at 93rd and 94th Street on Second Avenue (Hand Lots), 95th Street Beach, 96th and 97th Street Recreation Area (Seng Place), and 122nd Street Parking Lot. Councilmember Rich stated that the Committee selected three (3) sites for the possible location of the library which are 95th Street and the Beach, 120 97th Street (Seng Place), and 9301 Second Avenue (Hand Lots). Councilmember Rich stated that if the Recreation Area at Seng Place was selected, then the building would have to be re-designed and she is not proposing to remove any of the recreation activities already at Seng Place. Councilmember Rich stated that if Hand Avenue Lots were selected then that building would also have to be re-designed so that it is neighborhood friendly and conforms to the residential type of area.

Councilmember Rich thanked Borough Administrator, Jill Gougher, for receiving, acknowledging and distributing all e-mails and correspondence regarding the Library. Councilmember Rich thanked the County for working with the Borough on the location of the library.

Mayor Walters stated that there will be a second hearing on Saturday, April 28th at 10:00 a.m. at the Elementary School and has been advertised as a Regular Meeting so that all members of Council may attend and will be able to discuss Borough business. Mayor Walters reported that 3 sites were selected by the Committee; however, in response to a number of inquiries regarding the 80th Street Marina, the Mayor reported that site was removed from the list of possible sites because of its potential to flood. Mayor Walters stated that after Saturday's meeting, the Library Location Committee will meet to review all the comments, suggestions, pros and cons, and will make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council by July 3, 2012. Mayor Walters stated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss LOCATION only. Mayor Walters welcomed representatives from the County including Freeholder Sheppard, Deborah Poillon (Library Director), and Ann Marie McMahan and Kent Schellenger (Assistant Architects).

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Jill Gougher thanked everyone for attending and submitting their input. Mrs. Gougher outlined the site criteria for each site. (Handouts were distributed and copies are available in the Borough Clerk's Office.)

Ann Marie McMahon, Architectural Assistant, provided a visual presentation on each of the 3 sites and discussed the pros and cons attached to each site with site specific issues including flood, elevation, parking, amenities, impact on the neighborhood, and potential shadowing of the beach.

Ms. McMahon responded to several questions offered by Council which included: the size of the library would be 13,578 square feet and would consist of 2 floors as proposed in the original beachfront location; possibly reducing the square footage with respect to the other 2 locations; reducing the foyer area; the Museum; removing playground equipment and tennis and basketball courts; program space; parking; the geo-thermal field; the Borough of Stone Harbor would retain ownership of the land and that the current Lease is a 15 year lease; CAFRA permits, and parking and handicapped parking spaces. Discussion ensued regarding the square footage and what amenities/capabilities could be included/eliminated in a smaller building. Ms. McMahon stated that the library would require 6,700 square feet.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Lou Schweickhardt – 260 110th Street – expressed his support of the beach location.

Jeff Raffel – 96th Street and the Ocean – read a statement on the record and expressed his opposition to the beach location and support of the Second Avenue (Hand Lots) and Seng Place locations.

Bunny Parzych – 9925 Sunset -- expressed her opposition to the beach location and Seng Place and support of the 2nd Avenue location.

John Ready – 216 - 105th Street – expressed his support of the beach location.

Ann Nugent – 9914 Corinthian Drive – expressed her support of the beach location.

Dave Kubiak – 9410 Sunset – stated that the building looks so over-sized on the other 2 lots and inquired why it looked fine on the beach lot despite the fact that the other 2 lots are larger. Ms. McMahon responded that the building was designed for the beach lot and it is surrounded by open space.

Tom Pluta – 151-153 - 95th Street (and on behalf of 17 homeowners of the Garden House Condominium Association) – expressed their opposition to the beach location and support of 2nd Avenue and Seng Place locations.

Joseph Moran – 8514 Pennsylvania Avenue – expressed his opposition to the beach location and Seng Place and his support of the 2nd Avenue with a reasonable sized building.

Dan Magee – 9703 First Avenue – expressed his opposition to Seng Place.

Patti DiMarco – 364 - 93rd Street – expressed her opposition to the beach location and Seng Place and support of 2nd Avenue with a reduced size building. Mrs. DeMarco suggested that we consider housing the Post Office in the new library.

Freeholder Sheppard stated that the County is willing to design whatever building at whatever location the Borough desires; but we need to keep in mind that reduced size means reduced services.

Mayor Walters thanked every for coming tonight and asked the public to attend the next public meeting and clearly express actually where they want the library to be built. Mayor Walters read some comments contained in a blog entitled “What’s Next – Top Trends – Public Libraries – A Long Overdue Argument” given to Mayor and Council from Mr. Raffel as follows: “Public libraries are important because of a word that’s largely been ignored or forgotten and that word is

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public. Public libraries are more than just facts, information or content. Public libraries are places where local people and ideas come together. They are spaces, local gathering places, where people exchange knowledge, wisdom, insight, and most important of all, human dignity. A good library is not just about borrowing books or storing physical artifacts. It is where individuals become card-carrying members of a local community. They are places where people give as well as receive. Public libraries are keystones delivering the building blocks of social cohesion especially for the very young and the very old. They are where individuals come to sit quietly and think, free of the distractions of our digital age. They are where people come to ask for help in finding things, especially themselves.”

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Upon motion of
Seconded by

Councilmember Barry D. Mastrangelo
Councilmember Judith Davies-Dunhour

That the Library Location Meeting of Mayor and Council be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Vote

6 Councilmembers AYE

APPROVED _____, 2012

_____, Mayor

ATTEST: _____, Borough Clerk