

Nov. 14, 2019

To: Mayor Rob Rolison

From: Barbara Jeter Jackson, chairperson of The City of Poughkeepsie
YMCA Site Selection Advisory Committee

Mayor Rolison,

The Site Selection Advisory Committee met on September 17th and again on November 12th to talk about possible future uses for the former YMCA site on Montgomery Street.

In between, members attended the city's public information session at ChangePoint Church on October 23th, when the sole remaining proposal, The 35 Montgomery Community Coalition, presented its vision for the site. Coalition members propose a multi-use facility that would provide services connected to their respective missions in the community, including child development, education and health care.

We recommend the city move forward with a due diligence study and ask the Coalition for more information, including a business plan, to demonstrate it has a viable project. In order to build on the positive momentum achieved this far, we recommend the Coalition be required to submit their response within 90 days.

Committee members were impressed with the Coalition's presentation but have concerns whether a clear project with defined roles from these organizations will emerge. For instance, while there are 10 organizations affiliated with the Coalition, to date, only Dutchess County government has attached a financial figure to its commitment to this project.

The Coalition should now put forward key details that include but are not limited to: What organizations are fully and financially committed to the plan? What is the legal owning entity? What is the capital budget and source of capital and funding? What is the timelines for design and building?

We believe the City made the correct decision to take ownership of the long-dormant site and then to release a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for the property. The Advisory Committee is grateful to be part of this process and remains committed to helping the City reach a positive solution to address the next use for this vital piece of property in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Regards,

Barbara Jeter Jackson

On behalf of the City of Poughkeepsie YMCA Site Selection Advisory Committee: Sarah Salem, Tamoya Norwood, Arthur T. Rollin, Sashawna Isaacs, Paul Calogerakis, and John Penney