



LOWELL CITY COUNCIL
AD HOC S/C - SUPERIOR COURT HOUSE RESTORATION

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: March 20, 2024
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Mayor's Reception Room, City Hall / Zoom(Hybrid)

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Robinson, C. Noun and C. Scott. Others present were Adam Baacke (DCM Commissioner), Steven Anderson (DCM), C. Mercier, C. Gitschier, C. Descoteaux, Rep. Elliott, C. Leahy and Yovani Baez-Rose (DPD).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Robinson called the meeting to order noting the attendance and the discussion regarding future development of the Superior Court House.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Robinson commented on the formation of the subcommittee and its need. C. Robinson described the site and noted it was still under the control of the Trial Court. Mr. Baacke commented on repurposing the building and the adaptation cost to that noting there was a historical element as well. Mr. Baacke outlined the need for legislative action with transferring the site and that there could be a possible auction open to developers. Mr. Baacke noted concern for developers is the market return and that local community input is critical to the process. C. Robinson questioned if any special legislation could assist with this asset. Mr. Baacke indicated that a current bond bill may have some helpful language. C. Scott questioned local control of the site and zoning exemptions. Ms. Baez-Rose indicated the site is currently under state control and any private developer would need to adhere to local zoning regulations, i.e. MBTA Zoning District. C. Nuon noted the City must identify the best approach moving forward noting delays are costly. C. Nuon noted the need to assess the site to see what it may be used for.

C. Robinson opened meeting to the public and Dave Coach and John McDonough addressed the body. Mr. Anderson commented on current partnership by way of special legislation regarding the District Court and noted its success and could be duplicated for the Superior Court.



Representative Elliott commented on current legislation regarding site moving through the Legislature. Mr. Baacke commented on the partnership parameters. C. Scott questioned the City's interest in the property. Ms. Baez-Rose indicated that the District Court would be more conducive to housing as the Superior Court would favor mix use. C. Mercier noted local input was vital and that the City should have control over the site. C. Leahy recognized the need for local input and that establishing a partnership may move process quicker. C. Robinson noted first element is to identify what neighborhood wishes. C. Scott questioned if any assessment has been done with the site. Ms. Baez-Rose indicated that there had been limited review. C. Descoteaux noted the Superior Court posed more challenges and the legislations must be pushed aggressively. Ms. Baez-Rose noted the RFP was ready to go once the legislation is passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Scott. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
