

BHS Preservation Board of Directors Meeting  
February 3, 2015

The BHS Preservation Board of Directors met on February 3 at the Bath Christian Church Fellowship Hall with the specific purpose of beginning or continuing a discussion of long-range planning and the direction in which the group wishes to proceed next. It was decided that group would dispense with all business except the minutes of the previous meeting. Minutes were approved pending addition of Muriel's name as an attendee of the previous meeting (Jerol, motion; Sandra, second). The safety deposit box mentioned in the minutes has been rented, and the organization's valuable papers are stored safely away.

Those present for the discussion were board members Becky Tuten, Sandra Harrison, Muriel, June Lee, Jerol Selby, Cori Fritz (via phone), James Russell Boyd, and Claudia Alligood. Guests included Deborah Torrence, June Wallace, Star Credle, Marti Buchanan, Nelda Ormond and Ruth Dorkin.

An opening comment from Muriel concerning strategic planning as a daunting task seemed to capture the feelings of the entire group. We referred from time to time to the beginnings of strategic planning handout that had been put together by Cori Fritz and Deborah Torrence.

The following are comments as they were made during the meeting, with no pretense at organizing the comments into categories. It seemed to this writer that there were differing opinions as to exactly what we were supposed to accomplish at this meeting, and everyone's experience with such planning brought different perspectives to the table.

-Jerol Selby said that he knew someone who interest in putting a beauty salon in the building. Other suggestions that followed were barber shop and a place for senior activities.

-Cindi Baldwin has received a response from her grant application to PCS. A representative is planning a visit and would like to know more about the leanings of the project as to where money is needed. The possibility of a wing being used for a medical clinic, dental office and pharmacy was mentioned.

-Star said that as they were renovating the John A. Wilkinson Building, it was necessary for them to have a business plan in place before applying for grants. They found success with the USDA. Most grants are looking for investments that will mean jobs.

-We need a needs assessment from the community. The survey can be used for the needs assessment. Do we need informational meetings and town meetings to increase interest and to add to the membership. We need to post our strategic plans, etc.

-We need to keep the plan to two or three pages so people will read it. The strategic plan can become a business plan.

-We could do a mailing to the Bath/Pinetown Communities (the Bath school district). Bob Murphy did his study using a ten mile radius of Bath.

-We could put together a one-pager to funders and possible fundraisers. Ask the people who serve the community their opinions because they know what's going on in the community.

-Lentz Stowe at BCCC will be a good source.

-We talked to Rural Health Development in 2011-2012. They are looking at the service area.

-Carol Persche is a good information gatherer.

-Deborah suggested that we need a grant for organizational capacity, possible \$30,000 to help us with planning. The Duke Endowment is a possible source.

-Sarah Singleton, the grants writer for BCCC had some suggestions and is willing to answer questions.

-After-school care was mentioned as a possible use so children do not have to be bused to Washington after school for care.

-Cori suggested renovation of the floor above the library as the next realistic area of consideration after completion of the gallery. She also included the elevator in this next phase. She cited the floor over the library as space that might generate some income.

-These three things need to happen: needs assessment  
Organizational capacity  
Continue renovation

-June Lee, Cori Fritz and Deborah Torrence will develop the business plan, survey, visuals and flow chart.

-The Foundation might be a source for and organizational grant.

-Survey – outreach data base

-A motion was made that we proceed with the community survey, uses based on needs' assessment using community and key partners. WE were voting to authorize the survey and amended as a town hall meeting. (Muriel, motion; James Russell, second). The motion carried.

-Lentz Stowe of BCCC will give us guidance as to organizational capacity.

-What are our goals?

-We need to look at a map of the building and consider "uplift" space.

-Ray McKeithan of PCS needs to be given tickets to the oyster roast.

-Elevator, walkways, common space, foundation, floor joists, ceilings, hidden costs - will take in excess of \$3 million.

-Cori was asking for action from the board as to the schedule for proceeding with areas of the building.

A motion was made to accept Goal #1 of Vision 2020 of the strategic plan. (Muriel, motion; James Russell, second) Motion approved.

Update on status of Foundation. James Russell and Sandra will have an informal chat to check on current status.

Ruth Dorkin went over suggested changes and areas in the agreement which need to be revised. Currently Ruth Dorkin, June Wallace, Star Credle and Cindi Baldwin serve on that committee. Board members suggested attention be given to the cancellation portion, particularly its time-frame. Questions were raised about the daily rental fee and suggestions made for half-day rentals. Prices will be revisited later; \$75 was suggested. It was also mentioned that cleaning, electricity, heat, water, etc., had to be covered with the rent money, so the rent cannot be but so low.

Thus ended the meeting on long-range planning with promise of more information and meetings later.

Claudia Alligood, Secretary