



# PARKER SCHOOL AD HOC PLANNING COMMITTEE

AUGUST 16, 2023

## MEETING NOTES

### CITY OF CORTLAND

CITY HALL | 25 COURT ST.  
CORTLAND NY 13045  
(607) 756-6521

#### MAYOR

SCOTT STEVE

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

WAYNE SCHUTT

KATY SILLIMAN

MARY CLARE PENNELLO

PAT LANE

SETH THOMPSON

BILL CARPENTER

TROY BECKWITH

TOM MICHALES

#### CITY CLERK

ANDY JEWETT

#### CORPORATION COUNSEL

A.J. MELDRIM

#### DIRECTOR OF

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

LISA HENTY

### Discussion Item No. 1 Introduction of Ad Hoc Committee Members

The ad hoc planning committee consists of the following people:

Troy Beckwith | Council Member - 7<sup>th</sup> Ward

Donna Curtain | Jewett Ave. resident

Billie Jean Goff | Halbert St. resident

Christine Gregory | School board & original Parker task force member

Pat Lane | Council Member - 4<sup>th</sup> Ward

Brendan McGovern | Planning Commission member

Mary Clare Pennello | Council Member - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward

Katy Silliman | Council Member - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward

Scott Steve | Mayor

Julie Ray | ZBA member

Tony Testa | Halbert St. resident

### Discussion Item No. 2 How did we get here? | Lessons learned

Mayor Steve and committee members reviewed the proposed child care use and assumptions upon which the City's purchase of the Parker School building was premised, and factors contributing to the City's child care partners withdrawing from the proposed project.

Lisa Henty, Director of Administration and Finance provided the group information about current operational and maintained costs borne by the City. In May 2022, the City began tracking utility and maintenance costs for the building. Since that time, costs total \$89,781.97 and include the payment of insurance for the property, an adequate alarm system, required annual fire inspections and electric utilities.

### Discussion Item No. 3 Vision for the future | Ideas for use of the building

Discussion points included:

- Neighborhood residents have voiced interest in the building being used for multiple/mixed-use. Potential components of a multiple/mixed-use project discussed were:
  - Child care services by private providers and/or supported by business;
  - Programs and services for special needs populations
  - Business incubator;
  - Vocational services, trades and skill training, and workforce development;
  - City business office;
  - Spaces for community organizations and groups, artists and craft persons, community spaces and kitchen available for rental, year-round farmers' market.

*(Agenda Item No. 3 Discussion points continued)*

- Conducting a needs assessment to identify the types of community, social, recreational and other types of services and facilities the community would use and support.
  - Availability of state and other funding to support capital and operational expenses.
  - Potential partners to be a core tenant;
  - The importance of maintaining a playground on the property;

**Discussion Item No. 4 Next steps | Information needed | Task assignments**

Committee members volunteered to research and obtain information including:

- Demographics of school-age children, seniors and other groups; and
- Child care availability and need, and cost barriers.

**Discussion Item No. 5 Future meeting dates.**

The ad hoc committee agreed to meet every other week for an indeterminate period.

Meeting notes recorded by: Andy Jewett, City Clerk