

TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT
Gateways Committee Meeting
April 7, 2016

Present

Peter Mastrobattista
Amy Suffredini
Hilary Donald

Staff:

William Warner
Rose Ponte
Kathy Eagen

A. Call to Order.

The Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM

B. Public Comment: Received by email on April 5

Dear Friends on the Gateways Committee,
As Chair of the Human Relations Commission, I deeply regret that I will be out of town for your April 7 meeting with the consultants who are finalists for the contract to help continue the development plans along Route 4. Since I cannot attend, Bill Warner has invited me to make written comments; and, as I have said in the past, I am very grateful for this kind of official support in helping the Human Relations Commission live out its mandate of encouraging equality of treatment and opportunity for all members of the Farmington community.

I am attaching two brief articles about Universal Design, a philosophical and practical approach that complements and gives context to ADA regulations, and which is specifically mentioned in the RFP as a needed area of expertise for the consulting group guiding the second stage. If you found any of the three consulting proposals to be skimpy on the question of Universal Design, I would appreciate your asking some specific questions to get a sense of where the consultants are on this issue. Farmington has distinguished itself as a community in the forefront of planning community spaces that are welcoming to ALL people, but this is so only because citizens have spoken up and asked that accessibility be an important priority. You will be that voice on Thursday night with the consultants.

I realize that this is very short notice for you to read background information on Universal Design, so in the attached documents, I have either put asterisks next to or underlined what I consider to be the most relevant information. It is an approach that was originally formulated by Professor Ron Mace, architect, educator, and Director of the Center For Universal Design at North Carolina State University:

https://www.ncsu.edu/ncsu/design/cud/about_us/usronmace.htm

Thank you so very much for your support of this important issue, which pertains to the quality of life for all Farmington's citizens, not just those with disabilities.

Ruth Grobe, Chair, Farmington Human Relations Commission

C. Interview Consultants for phase 2 of Farmington Center Plan

The following consultants presented their proposals.

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | BL Companies – | 5:00 - 5:40 pm |
| 2. | Dodson & Flinker, Inc.
Mullin Associates Inc. | 5:50 - 6:30 pm |
| 3. | Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc | 6:40 - 7:20 PM |

D. To select consultants to conduct phase 2 of the Farmington Center Plan

Discussion ensued among the committee concerning the merits of each proposal. The committee directed Farmington staff to meet with BL Companies and further discuss their approach to the project.

E. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Rose Ponte

Economic Development Director.

cc: Sub-Committee Members
Bill Warner, Town Planner
Kathleen A. Eagen, Town Manager
Paula Ray, Town Clerk
Deb Bull, Administrative Assistant