

FRIENDS OF SCHUYLKILL SCHOOL
Minutes of Committee Meeting 5/24/04

1. Present at Meeting: Sandy Momyer, Sue Weicheld, Josh Gould, Joanne Brown, Peter Brown, Dr. Noyes, Jessica Zeigler-Cihlar and Phil Yocum
2. Minutes of 5/3/04 meeting were approved.
3. Treasurer's Report - Peter Brown reported that the balance in the FOSS checking account is \$453.38.
4. Grants update – Sandy Momyer:
 - a. We did receive a \$4,000.00 grant from the Henry A. Jordan M.D. Preservation Excellence Fund
 - b. We did not received a grant from the National Trust Johanna Favrot Fund
 - c. The following grants are currently outstanding.
 - i. Claneil Foundation - \$10,000
 - ii. Huston Foundation - \$10,000
 - d. Sandy and Peter Brown will try to meet with Carol Rubley to see if she is able to help support the adaptive reuse of the school building
 - e. Sandy received a letter from Jim Gerlach, requesting that she keep him informed of the progress of FOSS
 - f. Sandy provided each member with a list of Funding sources for:
 - i. Planning and Studies
 - ii. Bricks and Mortar
 - g. Sandy asked that John Milner Associates provide an additional list of grant funding sources for FOSS. Phil told Sandy that Peter Benton has been looking into additional funding sources. The problem is that it is difficult to receive grants if the building is being using solely by the school district. It was noted that the renovation at Charlestown Elementary School was paid for by the Great Valley School District.
 - h. Sandy said that the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation expressed its desire to fund ADA compliant work on the school. Additionally, other local sources might be willing to financially support the adaptive reuse of the school.
5. Adaptive Reuse Study Report – John Milner Associates (JMA):
 - a. Phil presented a sketch plan for the adaptively reused Historic Schuylkill School to the Buildings and Grounds committee meeting in May. These plans were already submitted for review by the FOSS and Dr. Noyes. The JMA sketch provides PASD with the following improvements from the existing office space: an increase in Administrative office space, the addition of two large conference rooms and two smaller conference rooms, additional conference areas within administrative offices, accessibility for handicapped staff and/or public visitors, secure public “core” at the lobby providing access to the main conference facility, an outer office zone with restricted public access for security, public ADA restrooms accessible from the lobby.
 - b. At this point, JMA is behind its planned schedule. Dr. Noyes stated that the schedule was delayed because both he and Michele Diekow did not

have time available to review the sketch plans and meet with JMA. Sandy will notify Robb Frees, chair of Buildings and Grounds, that the schedule is delayed.

- c. Phil and a structural engineer visited the historic school May 14th to perform a conditions assessment. They also spent time with Vick from the maintenance staff. They determined that it is a solid building. The roof, however, is close to the end of its useful life. Phil addressed concern about the crawlspace. His suggestions were to excavate the perimeter, seal, parge and waterproof the area, and grade ground. He also said that they would recommend applying a thin concrete slab in the crawlspace. Phil stated that the 3 boilers are fairly new. He suggested that the steam lines be converted to a hot water heating system. It was noted that there is a lot of space in the attic for air conditioning work and ventilation.
 - d. JMA addressed the concerns about the “health” of the historic school. FOSS would like JMA to review past and present measures PASD undertook to handle the concerns of the building. Additionally, it was requested that JMA suggest any future measures necessary to ensure that the historic school is a healthy building. This is being done, but Phil noted that JMA did not include a mechanical engineer with the feasibility study. The cost of a mechanical engineer should be included in the project cost.
 - e. Josh suggested that JMA provide in the project cost, a cost minimum and additional list of cost options with prices, including a suggestion of necessity for each option.
 - f. JMA will check with township personnel (specifically Mary Bird) regarding licenses and inspection requirements, zoning and other ordinances as well as sprinkler system requirements ASAP.
 - g. John Milner Associates will be submitting an invoice of approximately \$8,000, based upon the RFQ requirements achieved to date.
6. The next meeting date will be determined based upon the meeting with Dr. Noyes and JMA and revisions to the existing plan. The committee will be notified.
 7. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Weicheld, 5/30/04