

Press Release: Leo A Daly Selected to Facilitate Community Commons Site Discussion

Interviews were conducted Friday, August 22nd by a group of community stakeholders dubbed the “Commons Coalition” to hire a facilitator to lead a “pre-project site development charrette”. The charrette process will include working to develop a shared vision, needs assessment, and lead a community conversation related to the Community Commons site. Four firms interviewed and were ranked according to budget, related project experience, project understanding, facilitation experience, community engagement, and overall impression. In the end, Leo A Daly was the choice of the group. According to Jeff Moberg, School District Superintendent “we are getting to the point in the development of the commons where some challenging decisions will need to be made. I look forward to working with everyone as we strive to create a sustainable community commons that serves New Richmond for many years to come.”

Kimberly Hennings, Library Director stated that “the first order of business for the group, whose members include representatives from the School District, City, Library, Community Commons and Government Entities Network is to outline the project and identify project goals. The purpose of this coalition is to act as representatives for their respective groups and as advisors to the City Council and School Board as they complete pre-project development.” The group will be on a tight timeline. The City was awarded a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant for its public facilities project of rehabilitating the Community Commons property. The grant comes from the Wisconsin Department of Administration Division of Housing. After the grant is signed and approved by the City Council, there will be roughly a 60-90 day project and contract period which the City and School will have to collectively outline the scope of work. The Project is set to officially begin in mid-September.

According Mike Darrow, City Administrator, “with the library poised to move to the Commons site and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award, this is truly a once in a lifetime project for the community of New Richmond. The Community Commons site has the potential to become a historic public partnership and we feel confident that Leo A Daly can lead us through the first steps in the process.”

August 28, 2014