

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

March 28, 2023

2:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

Present: Chair Rob Wright via Zoom, Patricia Losik, Kathryn Garcia via Zoom and Planning & Zoning Administrator Kim Reed and Land Use Assistant, Kara Campbell.

I. Call to Order

Pat Losik stated that since Kathryn and Rob are via zoom this will be a workshop and no votes will be taken.

Ms. Reed explained that three (3) bids came in on Friday 3-24-2023. Ms. Reed opened the bids on Monday 3-27-2023 in the court room with witness, Jason Rucker, DPW Director and the livestream was on.

Chair Wright stated the purpose is to make a recommendation to the Planning Board for Monday, April 3, 2023, meeting.

Member Losik stated that Ms. Reed sent out the scoring and recommendation by Maher and she states that the discussion should be on its merits.

Chair Wright found the scoring process similar to process of the master plan steering committee but did not think it was a direct correspondence scoring. Agree dispense with scoring.

Member Losik did a worksheet with ties to the selection criteria RFP in alignment.

Chair Wright said he will talk about each separately. First, RPC, his sense RPC knows Rye, definitely a strength the local geographic area consultant. Proposal has strength. What bothered him they made assumptions vital part of the build out and master plan they are not entitled to those. Secondly, they lean on resilience, ok but feeling RPC not adding great deal value work done by resilience. Jenn Rowden ton of experience.

Chair Wright, on JVL same score as RPC, Julie came from RPC equally capable of doing the job. Julie's pricing is same, additional hours and Julie is less expensive. Toss up between RPC and JVL. JVL advantage hourly rate than the subcontractor.

Chair Wright spoke about Libra's proposal and he was put off every meeting virtual, mostly because of their location. Impressive CV's but not been together for very long. Top notch proposal, a lot boiler plate and in order to get to know Rye, they have a lot of catching up to do than RPC and JVL. They could resubmit for Master Plan and Build Out.

Member Garcia agrees with summary of Chair Wright but she is leaning to RPC. Her concerns were the community engagement not seeing anything different at bottom. She stated with JVL would like to see more outline. With the timeline, JVL is dense in 2nd phase. All reasons RPC has breath and depth in our region. Rated RPC higher.

Member Garcia stated Libra is removed, well qualified staff not sure work relevant to Rye.

Member Losik talked about Libra first. Team of 4, 1 local resident of Durham, references impressive but not connected with NH Communities. Issue with their budget, \$44,500 not meet our grant. Their pages 14, 15 breaks down the costs and hourly rates which range from \$70-\$185.00. Libra strength assessing land scape, don't think they are a likely fit.

Member Losik favors RPC, did a spread sheet. RPC understands HOP, importance of public engagement, speaks to language must coordinate with the master plan. Deliverables very specific.

Member Losik compared RPC and JVL task pre task. Big difference between 2 organizations and Kathryn spoke to her concern about the community engagement. Budget portion, RPC work with Resilience and on page 6 of RPC RFP clear what role who will play in this process and they are giving Rye an allowance of \$1,300. JVL is higher.

Member Losik spoke to Julie LaBranche's experience. RPC 40 years, former Select Board Phil Winslow very strong supporter of RPC, benefits professional qualifications, similar. She also pointed out that Julie mentioned that since a consultant has not yet started the timeline moved further along

Member Losik looking at experience other communities is clear JVL and RPC, not Libra. She says that Julie is working with HOP grants for 2 other communities and RPC is working with coastal communities.

Kara Campbell says that Libra is removed, although they do have a Durham planner. The other 2, RPC and JVL are close. RPC want to bring in Resilience and FB. FB did the NRI and RPC is in for the long haul with strong relationships. JVL which is Julie will be the only person and she has great strength where as RPC has a team. Overall RPC just did Housing Needs Assessment, they would be the best.

Ms. Reed points out that as Planners RPC, Resilience, JVL as well as herself and Kara do not have the AICP accreditation. We are all planners. Only Libra has one person who has the AICP accreditation. She thinks Libra is far removed, boiler plate language and pricing not in alignment of the grant. JVL worked for RPC and for many years worked with the Town of Rye on all the projects she contracted with. RPC has had changes in personnel and Julie was a constant and also Jenn Rowden. RPC embellished a little in their proposal, they have not been a circuit writer for Rye since 2013. Only recently the interim TA signed a contract with RPC to assist the Building Dept. RPC charged for services when engaged in planning and required contracts with the Town. JVL has a contract with Rye when she left RPC and was in the midst or working with the Planning Board for visioning, the Board continued with Julie.

Ms. Reed said she does not have a vote. Both RPC and JVL would be great to work with and each will do a terrific job.

Member Losik agreed that Julie was with RPC and when she left the Town contracted with her as a sole firm.

Chair Wright said that after listening to everyone he is changing his opinion. He is wrestling with his decision; he has familiarity with Julie vs RPC. Julie singular entity, he knows similar what he has received and more emphasis. He said it may be nice to have additional set of eyes and approaches. He discussed that this grant focuses on the voice of the people of Rye and struggle how to make that happen.

Member Losik takes a poll of who the committee members would recommend to the Planning Board.

Chair Wright said it was a toss up between RPC and JVL, persuaded RPC will have better deliverables.

Member Garcia favors RPC reasons mentioned before, specifically community outreach.

Member Losik, her vote is for RPC. Thank Libra for their proposal and perhaps in the build out or master plan they will reapply. Julie has a long relationship with the Town and hopefully she will continue as the Rye consultant on other matters. She states that Resilience 15hrs will be good guidance, the knowledge of FB on the NRI and Parsons Creek has been great.

Since it was a work session the recommendation is that the RPC be awarded the grant and that they make this recommendation to the Planning Board on Monday, April 3, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Reed Planning & Zoning Administrator