



Edited and Accepted
MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
ON BUILDING Re-USE MEETING
Wednesday, September 27, 2006 at 7:30 a.m.
Children's Museum of Portsmouth Tour

The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Building Re-Use met on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 at 7:30 a.m. at the Children's Museum of Portsmouth on Marcy Street for a building tour.

Present were public representatives Heather Hurtt, Chair; Tom Heany and Senator Martha Fuller Clark; and staff present from the city were John Bohenko, City Manager; and Nancy Carmer, Economic Develop. Program Manager. Leading the tour was Doug Tilton of the Children's Museum.

Mr. Tilton began the tour at the entrance to the museum noting the handicapped accessible entrances to the structure. He pointed out a current exhibit on the building's history which is apart of the Portsmouth Poet Laureate "What is Home" program. The tour continued floor by floor from to the third floor attic and base of the clock tower.

The following information was gathered during the tour:

1. The building has 19 parking spaces around the building and a trolley stop/ bus loading area in front on Marcy Street.
2. The last time the building was painted was four years ago.
3. The Children's museum installed storm windows and repairs many of the original windows; however some of the wood sills need replacement or repair.
4. A brand new water heater was installed in the basement this year.
5. The slate roof is original and may need repair. There have been minimal roof leaks.
6. The attic has a partial floor beneath the bell and clock tower and plywood has been laid over rafters of the remaining area for storage.
7. The clock tower leaks and there may be some rot. Mr. Tilton has an estimate to paint the clock tower which he will share with the Committee.
8. The clock requires winding once a week and re-calibration twice a year when the time changes and whenever weather inhibits the clock hands' movement.
9. The bell tower needs repair.
10. A rooftop-style heating and cooling unit is located on the side of the building in a fenced area and is three years old. Two other gas-fired heating units are located in the rear of the attic. These attic units are almost twenty years old.
11. Two cooling units are located within a fenced in area on the north rear side of the building. They provide cooling for the second floor only.
12. The Museum had a sprinkler fire suppression system installed throughout the entire building.

13. There is an ice roof guard on the south side of the building, but not one on the north side. During storm events in the winter and spring parking is restricted on the north side of the museum to prevent injury and damage from falling ice.
14. The building has a basement with an earth/ledge floor.
15. The floors beneath the newly installed carpets are made of pinewood.
16. Ceiling repair in the front entrance way is needed due to leaks from the clock tower.
17. When the museum relocates to Dover, the canvas murals will be removed from the first floor walls leaving the plaster walls "as is." City Manager Bohenko offered that the City will come in and paint the walls after the move.
18. The submarine will be dismantled and moved as well.
19. There are two areas in the museum where exhibits extend between floors; the submarine exhibit protrudes from the first to the second floor and the space shuttle exhibit protrudes from the second to the third floor attic.
20. On the second floor there is an exhibit called "Mindball" which is housed in a small glass enclosed space. This area will remain intact when the museum relocates.
21. There is a well on the north side of the museum that is still operable, but that has been capped for safety. Because the well dates back to the 1600's, the Museum Directors are seeking an archeological dig in the well area. Mr. Bohenko asked that this be coordinated through the city since the same archeologists is currently doing work for the city.

The timeframe for the museum was discussed. Mr. Bohenko said that the lease has been extended to September 2008. Mr. Tilton said that the target date for moving is April 2008.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy M. Carmer, Economic Development Program Manager