McIntyre Session Two - Jan 12th 6-8pm, Group 14 Report

Facilitator: Cara Cargill

Participants: Alan & Ellen Cohen, Mike Harvell, Kathleen Tutone, Anne Wiedman, Colleen Wolfe, Lee Frank, and Jen Meister

Group Member Volunteer to Compile the Report: Colleen Wolfe

Group Member Volunteer to Present to City Council: Lee Frank

Break Out Group - Identified Visions

- Wall removal To create a more inviting passage through McIntyre and improve flow
- Greening and pleasant landscaping of the parking lot area with the potential of using the rear of the McIntyre building as a stage for performances.
- Sitting areas with chairs, benches, tables for folks to collect , rest, enjoy a snack, take in the view
- Aesthetic alterations to the Daniel side of the building - brick the sidewalk or perhaps add a small fountain.
- Balancing new construction with the incorporation of as much green and open space accessible to the Portsmouth community as possible.
- Less fortress-like: beautify parts that cannot be altered (i.e. covered section on Daniel St) and eliminate parts that can be changed (i.e. the brick wall on Penhallow); find ways to incorporate architectural/design elements to make the facade less imposing
- Winter Uses: make the space a place to gather in winter; similar to Pop-Up Portsmouth in concept, e.g. winter market, ability to set up kiosks
- Outdoor Dining: options to sit outside and eat, both from onsite restaurants and food that people bring from other restaurants in town
- Post Office or other organic options to build community and be social: since we can't control whether the post office returns, try to recreate the feel of a business or activity where people come to the site for a defined short-duration purpose and can bump into friends/neighbors while there
- We envision a space that can be easily traversed on foot, i.e. enable community members to walk through the public indoor sections and exit through the other side rather than in/out the same door; also key to eliminate the brick section on St. John's Church side near old post office that prevents walking between Bow St side of property and Daniel St. side (we're pretty sure Feds gave City permission to remove this one existing structure on the site)

Top 5 Priority Visions

1. Flow/create thru space/removal of wall
2. Enhance green space
3. Create winter space/social zone
4. Outdoor dining/ public benches and seating
5. Organic connection in a community space

Other Information to be Considered re. Visions

Can we have the post office back?

View from the rooftop?
Could be best view in Portsmouth!

Financial considerations

What do public spaces look like post-covid?
Opportunity to set a new standard in how shared spaces are utilized