Question: “You talked about funding for existing youth programs. What about funding for new programs?”
Answer: The city appropriated $100,000 for youth programs for 2018, and $150,000 for 2019. The Common Council just approved an additional $100,000 for those services, to be used during the remainder of this year. It has yet been determined precisely how those monies will be spent.

Question: “What is your assurance that whatever is built there will offer affordable services to the community?”
Answer: We don’t envision and would not support a venture that would include heavy fees to the public. The deed restriction refers to the site being used for educational, recreational and cultural uses.

Question: “How would you deal with transportation issues to and from a youth center if one is built?”
Answer: As the plan unfolds, transportation issues will have to be addressed, including having conversations with the county about bus routes.

Question: “If I wanted to come in a hazmat suit, could I? Is there a set date for contractors to do that?”
Answer: No there is no set date. We have to a conversation with our insurance carrier about this and make determinations on a case-by-case basis. Inquiries should go through the city administrator’s office.
On Wednesday June 26, the City of Poughkeepsie held its second public meeting regarding possible future uses of the former YMCA site. More than 80 people turned out at the Christ Episcopal Church to hear residents offer their views.

After opening remarks by City Administrator Marc Nelson and Reverend Susan Fortunato of the Christ Episcopal Church, city officials showed a seven-minute video of what the inside of the former YMCA building looks like today and then took questions regarding the site. Representing the city were: Mayor Rob Rolison, City Administrator Marc Nelson, Community Development Coordinator Paul Hesse, Planning Director Natalie Quinn and Community Engagement Director John Penney.

Questions focused on the damage to the building, whether it was salvageable, and whether a youth center would eventually be built on the site.

**Questions**

**Question:**
“Would the city consider creating a public advisory board for this project?”

**Answer:**
Yes, the city is considering forming such a committee as this process moves forward.

**Question:**
“Has there been an assessment of the structural integrity of the building?”

**Answer:**
The city hired an environmental consultant to inspect the building and write a report. The report recommends that no individuals enter the building without full hazmat clothing due to the interior condition of the building, and that includes city employees. The consultant provided a 45-minute video of the interior, and we edited that down to a seven-minute video to show to the public at the meeting and through our social media. City officials point out the video shows extensive damage to the building.

Assessing the structural integrity is the next step. City officials have had discussions about whether the building has to come down, but a potential developer could conceivably want to rehabilitate building. It would have been our preference to let people go into the building, but our consultants and insurance carrier advised against that course of action.

Also, the Request for Expressions of Interest specifically notes, to the extent that they are familiar with the building, developers “are encouraged to suggest how some portion or all of the building could be rehabilitated. In the event that the building is demolished, respondents should describe the new facility to be constructed.”

**Question:**
“Even if the building can be repaired, it’s going to take a couple of years. We need a senior and youth center, community center. Can we do that someplace else?”

**Answer:**
The city is on a dual track. It has approved additional funding for some existing youth programs and has set an Aug. 5* deadline for developers to offer expressions of interest in what should become of the former YMCA site. There are no plans to build a new community center at any other site at this point.

*Shortly after the community meeting, the submission deadline was extended to September 5, 2019.*
Question: “We need to keep the focus on what to do with this site. Are we going to have concrete information to move forward?”

Answer: Yes, the submission date for proposals is Monday Aug. 5* at 3 p.m. City officials anticipate that at our next public meeting, we will reveal proposals coming into us. We should have high-level conceptual ideas by then. And we should know whether the building is salvageable.

Question: “The video was very informative. Will the proposals be for anything or for a community center, something to help the kids?”

Answer: We are not going to embrace proposals for apartments or offices.

There is a deed restriction on the property, limiting future land uses to educational, recreational and cultural purposes. Respondents are encouraged to develop their proposals within those parameters. If respondents have a proposal for the site that goes beyond the limitation of the deed restriction, they are encouraged to submit their ideas. However, the proposal should have a demonstrated community benefit.

While the Common Council has the ability to modify or remove the deed restriction, we envision the site being used for something along the lines of an education, vocation, health-care and/or youth center.

Question: “What is the transition from the Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) to a Request for Proposals (RFP).”

Answer: The city released a RFEI because we wanted to get a better understanding of the visions the community has for the site. This is a slower process but is the smarter way to make sure we get what the community wants. The RFEI is expected to lead to a Request for Proposals (RFP) process that may result in an award of a preferred developer to move the project forward and to fruition.

Question: “Why does the city intend to include the former YMCA site in the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program?”

Answer: The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is a locally prepared land and water use plan that addresses opportunities to improve natural, public, commercial or developed waterfront areas. The city is proposing to expand its current LWRP boundary, which would include the former YMCA site, thus potentially making any proposal subject to consistency review by the city’s Waterfront Advisory Committee. Inclusion within the LWRP boundary also would make projects potentially eligible for state grant funding.

Question: “Will redevelopment of the site come under the New York’s State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR)?”

Answer: Yes a SEQR process is required.

*Shortly after the community meeting, the submission deadline was extended to September 5, 2019.
Question:
“You talked about funding for existing youth programs. What about funding for new programs?”

Answer:
The city appropriated $100,000 for youth programs for 2018, and approximately $130,000 for 2019. The Common Council just approved an additional $100,000 for those services, to be used during the remainder of this year. It has yet been determined precisely how those monies will be spent.

Question:
“What is your assurance that whatever is built there will offer affordable services to the community?”

Answer:
We don’t envision and would not support a venture that would include heavy fees to the public. The deed restriction refers to the site being used for educational, recreational and cultural uses.

Question:
“How would you deal with transportation issues to and from a youth center if one is built?”

Answer:
As the plan unfolds, transportation issues will have to be addressed, including having conversations with the county about bus routes.

Question:
“If I wanted to come in a hazmat suit, could I? Is there a set date for contractors to do that?”

Answer:
No there is no set date. We have to a conversation with our insurance carrier about this and make determinations on a case-by-case basis. Inquiries should go through the city administrator’s office.