

About MC RecRoom expansion

Menlo Commons, March 25, 2022 rev April 2

A few weeks ago, Ann Mueller asked me to spearhead the long-planned project to upgrade/expansion our RecRoom in building E, complete with detailed cost estimates so the Board will know what we end up proposing and can act on our proposal.

The project, I think, is in two parts, interrelated:

A) **Floor plan and construction**, This involves me as Facilities Committee, supported by appropriate professional engineering, architecture, and construction. This report reflects my preliminary analysis of our space, possible change, and ways to create an all-gender, bathroom and shower with ready access for swimmers and workers. It remains to be seen whether these preliminary ideas can be implemented at all—at reasonable cost—and are agreeable to our residents.

B) **Use of available space and selection of equipment**. That involves the RecRoom committee, which I presume will be reconstituted with additional members.

I wrote a half dozen known RecRoom users: “I anticipate that this project will take quite some time as we all consider alternatives, sleep on it, come up with better suggestions, and ultimately develop consensus around a preferred alternative, which we will recommend to the Board.”

Principle to go by: Completed Staff Work

For the hallway furniture project, I wrote two years ago:

“My daughter Karin and I worked together on an extensive remodeling of her house starting ten years ago. I, her dad and handyman, was allowed to make suggestions, and when I did, I was obligated to explain them until Karin understood each detail completely. She would sleep on it, then come back with questions, improvements or a counter-proposal. I would sleep on that. The project always got better. When Karin was satisfied, she made the decision. It was her house.”

To me, this is/was a good way to work. For this project I will do my best to suggest possibilities/alternatives and explain them as best I know how. This report is a start, not the end. Committee members and residents can sleep on it and make suggestions. The project can only get better. The objective is to arrive at a consensus for this project that will be satisfying for the next 20–30–40 years. I am a fan of Completed Staff Work as a guiding principle for projects such as we plan here at Menlo Commons.

Please see <http://www.forssell.com/menlo/Planning/CompletedStaffWork.pdf>

As you read, consider that “a staff officer” in this case is Dag for the facility and the RecRoom Committee chair(s) for use of space and equipment, “the head of the staff division, or the commander” in this case is the MC Board, and “consult other staff officers” in this case means other committee members and MC residents.

Notice that Completed Staff Work can be initiated by anyone. Any resident can conceive of and explore a project, alone or in cahoots with fellow residents. Don’t just throw out a suggestion and expect Board Members to do the work for you. That is not their job.

Principle to go by: Developing consensus

I feel as if I am a time traveler from a future when the life sciences share an understanding of how living things function. This is my passion and life’s work. See www.livingcontrolsystems.com. I understand that we all control. We act to influence the world so we experience what we want to experience, and keep it that way. We resist disturbances to what we want. What we want is determined by what we understand. Understandings are developed over a lifetime, and each of us is unique. Wants are unique. When understandings and wants differ and collide, conflict follows.

As we strive to develop consensus regarding each project, common understanding is key. To achieve common understanding, we need transparency, plenty of explanation, discussion and updates as we go along. All residents will be welcome to partake of all information and deliberations. The goal is shared understanding and consensus as each project develops to a harmonious conclusion.

More info

This and other files posted at <http://www.forssell.com/menlo/RecRoom/RecRoom.html>

Best to all, Dag Forssell







