



Montreat Town Hall Public Input regarding Size and Design

During the work of the Montreat Town Hall Committee, from August through November 2016, the focus of the work was to determine a location for the new Town Hall. During the series of meetings, public input sessions were held to discuss location. However, other aspects of the Town Hall, such as building function and design, were offered. What follows are the recommendations from the Committee as well as suggestions from the public who attended the various meetings.

Recommendations from the Town Hall Committee Report, 2016:

- The facilities should be in keeping with the values of Montreat
- Modest in functionality
- Designed with cost consciousness
- Should be approximately 3,500 square feet of conditioned space
- Should be one-story in height
- Should not include large lobby space, but small community information “nook” would be appropriate
- Should prioritize sharing of large meeting facilities with MRA and Montreat College to maximum extent feasible
- A small conference room seating approx. 30-35 persons would be appropriate
- The design should include expansion capacity as appropriate
- Should also envision technological advances that may reduce need for administrative bricks and mortar

Suggestions from members of the community:

Note that they are somewhat duplicative of the Committee's recommendations, as the Committee took community input for their final report recommendations:

- A one story building to avoid the need for an elevator
- Various comments about the need for a multipurpose room
- Various comments about not needing a large room, but to use MRA meeting rooms instead

- A modest sized Town Hall
 - Square footage anywhere from 3,000 to 4,500 square feet
 - Smaller conference room for small meetings and committee functions
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- A building reflecting Montreat's values and character, including simplicity and modesty
 - The building should not overshadow the Montreat gate
 - Affordability is key
 - The ability to expand the building in the future
 - A multipurpose room that could be used as an incident/emergency command center
 - In planning, consider how technology is changing the way we do work
 - Public bathrooms
 - Landscaping commensurate with the town
 - A porch with rocking chairs
 - A reception area with an attitude of invitation
 - A welcome board, maps and a fireplace in the reception area
 - Space for a volunteer to greet guests coming into the facility
 - A communal and welcoming feeling
 - Simplicity of design, in keeping with the character of Montreat
 - Minimize the use of waiting rooms