

Architect for Senior Center Site Selection and Building Committee
March 25, 2024

Architect: _____

Interview Questions

1. (Ken) Does your firm have preference for a Senior Center design with the entire building on one floor, or can a satisfactory design of a Senior Center be accomplished with a building on two floors?
2. (Ken) Can you provide an opinion on the importance of the location of a Senior Center within a small town geographically like Ayer, is there a general preference to be closer to the center of town or within a certain number of miles to the center of town?
3. (Dennis) As a public building there will be many particular interests seeking to have their ideas implemented. How do you navigate conflicts between competing interests while maintaining the architectural and design integrity of the structure? Do you have examples of successfully navigating competing interests in other communities?
4. (Dennis) When choosing a site for a senior center what do you see as the top three most important considerations that will encourage use of the building in terms of size, location, topography, ease of access, etc.?
5. (Ellen) What are your guiding principles in terms of design and program content for the Senior Centers you've worked on? What is your vision of a successful Senior Center that meets the needs of its varied users?

6. (Ellen) How do you work together with your team of subcontractors? Do you oversee their work and take responsibility for any mistakes they make?
 7. (Dave C) How long do you anticipate the project to take?
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ALTERNATE QUESTIONS

1. (Ken) Please give the committee a description of a project that your firm started and brought to completion with a minimum of issues, and secondly give the committee a description of a project that did not go as anticipated and what could be learned from that project and how the project could be executed better.
2. (Dennis) How do you think about the trade-off in terms of size and cost between designing a building that meets the current needs of the community and the design considerations that are necessary to allow for future growth and expansion as the size and the needs of the community change?
3. (Dennis) Given the probable cost of the building, I think it is important that the building see significant use throughout the day and evening. How do you design a building that not only attracts people for a specific meeting or activity, but also encourages them to stay, socialize, and engage with the broader community?
4. (Ellen) Community Input will be important to our process. What is your usual timeline and means of engaging a good portion of the community in determining content and design for a Senior Center?
5. (Katie) You've got a lot of experience with senior center projects – can you speak to what differentiated each of them?

6. (Dennis) What is your experience with building net-zero public or private buildings? How do you think about the trade-off between the costs and benefits of net zero building versus conventional buildings?
7. (Dennis) Meals/dining options are an important, perhaps most important, part of service delivery for Ayer's senior community. Do you have any initial thoughts on integrating a commercial kitchen and dining area into the broader uses of the building? Any examples in your completed senior center projects?
8. (Dave C) How often do you finish on time and on budget?
9. (Dave C) Has your company ever been in a dispute with a client and how was the dispute resolved?