

MGT Charrette Process

Origin of the Charrette

In the 19th century at Ecole des Beaux in Paris, architectural students wishing for their plans to be considered would scurry to submit their drawings by the designated hour. A “little



cart” or charrette would be brought around to collect their drawings and take them to a large room to be displayed for the public to view. Architects had the opportunity to submit their ideas; every citizen was given an opportunity to view these drawings and offer his/her thoughts. Most often the building project was a monumental one, with far reaching consequences. This necessitated the best thinking of the entire community. This charrette process was created out of the belief that the people could make significant contributions to the final plan – and they often did.

Developing a ten-year master facility plan is a comprehensive and involved process that requires a broad base of public input to be successful. As citizens of Paris often proved, the charrette process produces a better plan than one developed by a select few. Public involvement opens up the scope of discussion to include issues important to the community.

MGT has designed a charrette process that allows free and unrestricted public comment during the planning phases to garner input from the community on issues that are important for the success of a master plan. The MGT charrette process allows every person an equal opportunity to express his/her views in a comfortable environment by allowing people to express their opinions and work through ideas in a responsive group. Here’s how it works:

- ❖ A trained presenter gives a brief PowerPoint presentation that establishes the goals for the project and explains the charrette process.
- ❖ The audience becomes actively engaged in the charrette through the use of a highly interactive software. Each person is given a wireless keypad called a ResponseCard®. The ResponseCard® enables the participant to vote on issues concerning the facility master plan.
- ❖ After each question, the audience receives immediate feedback in the form of a bar graph that displays the response trends of the entire group. This enables the large group to immediately recognize insights, trends, and consensus. This process allows MGT to gather “unbiased” responses and then share what the group is thinking for immediate feedback and small group discussion.
- ❖ In the next step of the process, trained facilitators engage small groups in a “drill down” of the predominant topics discovered during the large-group session. These smaller sessions are more conducive to free-flowing discussion as a result of the information gained from the initial presentations.

Following the charrette session, MGT facilitators debrief to discuss the key points and trends that emerged from the small group sessions. MGT analysts then use the data gathered during the sessions as barometers of community consensus for building a ten-year facility master plan.

The carts may no longer be used but the spirit of the old charrette process lives. What participants take away from the sessions is a conviction that their input is valuable and will contribute to the building of a successful plan. Once the facility plan is unveiled, people will know that their input helped create the right plan for their community. The MGT charrette process adds a new dimension to planning by getting the community engaged from the very beginning.

Facilities Assessment Community Forum Town and School buildings

THE TOWN OF ANDOVER NEEDS YOUR PARTICIPATION

WHO: Parents, Students, Faculty, Staff, and Taxpayers of the Town of Andover

WHAT: Public Charrette on the future school and town facility needs. A charrette is an intensive planning session where citizens, designers and others collaborate on a vision for development. It provides a forum for ideas and offers the unique advantage of giving immediate feedback to the designers. More importantly, it allows everyone who participates to be a mutual author of the plan.

WHERE and WHEN:

Cormier Youth Center (behind the Doherty Middle School)

40 Whittier Ct, Andover, MA 01810

Wednesday, February 24th, 6:30 PM

WHY: Our school district continues to provide an excellent education for the students in our care. Much progress has been made; more needs to be done. Our town facilities reflect who we are as a town and are central to the services we are expected to provide to our residents. We want to develop a ten-year facility master plan that addresses those building needs, while being accountable to the taxpayers of the Town of Andover. Your input on these matters is very important to us.

Join us for this public charrette and share your views on the existing needs of our facilities. Help us as we develop a plan to address present and future facility challenges in a responsive and responsible manner. The consulting firm of MGT of America will facilitate the process.

