

Boyceville Public Library Building Committee

July 10th, 2023 Notes (APPROVED July 24th, 2023)

(1.) Call to order and roll call

Present: J. Thompson, K. Anderson, C. Lange, E. Blodgett, M. Blodgett, J. Markham (chair), C. Kyser (secretary), A. Ames, C. McNamara, G. Julson, A. Peterson

Absent: none

Others present: none

(2.) Selection of vice chairperson

E. Blodgett volunteered to be the committee's vice chairperson.

(3.) Approval of last meeting's minutes

E. Blodgett motioned to approve the last meeting's minutes. J. Markham and C. Lange seconded.

(4.) Future Library Programs - Continued Discussion

Desired attributes for the new library

Conference rooms. Continued discussion of conference rooms that don't have access to the entire library after hours. J. Thompson - users can have fobs/key cards/access codes to make this possible. C. McNamara - a "right-size" meeting room for community organizations such as Scouts; also display cases for collections & Boyceville history artifacts. These attributes could make a new library an easier sell to the community.

Maker space. C. McNamara - fundraising is an option for the maker space. M. Blodgett - envisions this as a tech center for homeschoolers/remote schoolers. C. Kyser - many homeschoolers are already in the area but must travel to Eau Claire or the Twin Cities for the services the new library could provide.

Bathrooms. Audiences for bathrooms need to be considered: mobility needs, children, bathroom for a family unit. Need a family restroom/caregivers room, near the children's area.

Looking to Val for ideas. J. Thompson - Building code requires that one restroom be designated as “male” and one as “female.” Also noted there can be water flow issues with “child” bathrooms.

Stage. G. Julson - a stage area that could be used as something else. J. Thompson - for each inch of raised surface there needs to be one foot of ramp for accessibility. J. Markham - Tradeoffs between resources and space; Val may have ideas about the stage. Consider a portable stage.

Staff needs. M. Blodgett raised the importance of having a private break area for staff with eating nook/area. G. Julson suggested employee lockers for purses/other valuables.

Exterior features.

- Solar panels on the roof, could be fundable later/available for tax rebates. New building could be designed to accommodate even if not in the initial budget.
- Green space outside the library: place for kids to run, shade tree and picnic table, bike racks, bike tool station, room for outdoor movies, and possibly outdoor reading terrace. (Committee noted that the Village would be responsible for outdoor maintenance as it would own the building.)
- Exterior pick-up lockers. Consider this function in the infrastructure even if funding isn't available right away.

Other desired attributes/functions.

- A place to hang patron coats for programming
- Community programming area needs to be flexible.
- Softer lighting/LED lights. J. Thompson - fluorescent lights are no longer up to code.
- Water fountain & kitchen sink
- Two-sided fireplace
- K. Anderson would like to have patrons access their own holds. No need to keep behind the desk for staff to hand out.
- Don't lose uniqueness and character with the new library. Committee discussed the desire to have an environment that was welcoming to the entire community.

(5.) Overview of Marion, IA Public Library

M. Blodgett and E. Blodgett recently visited the Marion, IA library. Shared their thoughts as well as a printout of the floor plan.

Notable attributes: one-third of the space is dedicated for functions other than non-material storage; maker space has 3D printers & sewing machines; gaming room for patrons 12 and under; a computer desk with attached “baby corral”; and a price list for patrons who want to use supplies/services such as the laser printer.

What the Marion, IA librarians/staff **didn't** like about the library: the indoor slide; bins for children's books; larger walled-off baby playpen was a good idea but difficult to clean; long-armed sewing machine was gifted but raised concerns about supervision.

(6.) Other matters

Future program funding. Are there future funds to use the library programs? Is there staff funding to use the spaces we are talking about? C. McNamara - Make a list and prioritize. Take the top 6 desired features/programs and rank them. J. Thompson - We can generate more money from the county if you draw in people from outside of Boyceville.

Committee involvement - when and how? Val's renderings can be shown to the public at a listening meeting. J. Thompson - Stanley Public Library recently had a similar meeting with interior renderings. Noted that Val is good at conveying enthusiasm for a project. Approximately 20 to 25 people attended the Stanley meeting.

Reasonable quorum. Committee agreed to move forward with most decisions if not everyone is present at a meeting.

(7.) Plan for our next meeting

J. Markham, J. Thompson, and C. Kyser will collaborate with notes, then disseminate to the entire group. Committee will then decide if we are ready to ask Val to come back for our July 24th meeting. Otherwise, Val is scheduled to attend the August 7th meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.