

Boyceville Public Library Building Committee Meeting

Monday, June 5th, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: A. Ames

First committee meeting; no prior meeting minutes or business to approve.

Introductions. Discussion of who had prior board committee experience and building experience.

V. Schute discussed his work experience as an architect – building libraries since 1978. His firm does a lot of projects with community-raised money.

Referred to this committee as a “journey.” Each meeting will build on the prior meetings.

V. Schute discussed potential committee size (could be any size). Encouraged ground rules, respect for opinions, kindness, and open-mindedness.

V. Schute discussed the abstract and timeline for each element:

Program, 1 month

Schematic Design, takes 6 meetings

Project funding and setting the direction

Project ready for bidding

Design Dev, a couple of months

Working drawings, 5 to 6 months

Bidding, 1 month

Construction, 9 to 12 months. If you start in the fall, it will be closer to 12 because of winter.

Described this as likely a two-year journey, not less than a year. Fundraising time may vary. Each step on the abstract builds on the other. “If the community doesn’t feel there’s a need, the concrete would hold us up.”

For this meeting, V. Schute covered the Program and Schematic Design elements of the abstract. He presented digital views of the potential building and building site.

V. Schute encouraged this committee to consider: Does it (the new library) meet the community’s needs? Looking for more than an aesthetic lens. Dive deeper than aesthetics. New construction is a different starting point than a remodel or expansion. We can be more creative. Invest in the idea of everyone being stakeholders.

J. Markham did a time check at 5:30 p.m.

V. Schute discussed the Library Qualities page of the handout.

J. Thompson discussed the Space Needs Summary. "Everything costs money or space." We need to allocate space for priorities. What essential items are on the table? What is the look and feel of the building?

V. Schute, remarked that 10 foot ceilings are ideal. And, a bunch of permanent walls destroys the flexibility. Discussed current library's square footage versus what is projected/desired/planned.

V. Schute discussed options for security systems and panic buttons for staff.

J. Markham did a time check at 5:55 p.m. Unanimous agreement to extend the meeting to 6:30 p.m.

V. Schute encouraged this committee to visit other libraries. The committee may go together and tour libraries. J Markham volunteered his personal van for a future field trip. Committee members can visit nearby libraries (Glenwood City) on their own.

M. Blodgett stated that large south-facing windows and too-high light fixtures can be problematic for library staff.

V. Schute discussed general location issues not specific to our project. Be aware of adjacent permanent buildings that would make expansion impossible, like churches and cemeteries. ADA guidelines should be viewed as the bare minimum. Offer accessibility to all "differently abled" individuals.

V. Schute continued the discussion of the potential building site, both single parcel without the alley and a larger site that includes blocking off the alley. Do we want a drive-up book drop? How much off-street vs on-street parking?

J. Thompson asked for 5-minute presentations on trends specific to Boyceville Library from M. Blodgett, G. Julson, and K. Anderson. Will present at the next meeting.

Committee approved using J. Markham's van to travel to other libraries. His van holds 6 people.

J. Thompson stated that we qualify for the same grant as the Glenwood City Library. However, the project must be "shovel ready" and we are not there yet.

Committee agreed to meet every other Monday from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Next two future meetings are June 19th and July 10th.

For homework, the committee should create a wishlist of features we want inside of the new library building.

Unanimous agreement to name this committee the “Boyceville Public Library Building Committee.”

J. Markham moved to dismiss at 6:30 p.m.