

## **Boyceville Public Library Building Committee Notes, 19 June 2023**

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

Absent: G. Julson, A. Peterson

Others present: none

E. Blodgett made a motion to approve minutes. C. Kyser seconded. All in favor.

J. Markham, meeting called to order at 5:10 p.m. Discussed this meeting's agenda. These are topics we should review before V. Schute joins us again. We can extend the discussion into the next meeting, if needed. Then V. Schute brought back into the meetings to discuss, "What's the design? What's going to work?"

K. Anderson made a presentation.

Library needs include more space, a larger circulation desk, more circulation computers, better accessibility, ADA compliance, more workspace for the library staff (currently have one desk) and easier access to green space.

Current trends for libraries are the maker movement, aging advances (ex. Large print materials), ESL (Spanish speakers), and greater privacy for patrons (self-checkout, self printer).

Overview of Circulation Stats. The age group with the most checkouts are 41 - 65 year olds. Checkouts are by the library card holder. Note that some adults check out materials for their children.

J. Thompson discussed the 2010, 2018, 2022 handout and stats. These figures show the municipal population, not the service area population for the Boyceville Public Library.

J. Markham asserts that the community population is 2,100, as it goes out further than Boyceville.

C. Kyser made note of the relatively flat population grown in recent decades. Questions how important expansion is for the new library building.

J. Thompson notes that a library building's life is 20 to 30 years.

J. Markham said that expansion is a good thing to have, but not the primary concern.

M. Blodgett says that new buildings should have the ability to be "reimagined" as needed.

C. McNamara points out that a makerspace could provide hands-on skills for youth and fill the gap of classes the school may not provide. These activities nurture visual thinking.

C. Lange notes that hands-on classes have expanded at the High School

K. Anderson was recently at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library. Saw two middle school classes use their makerspace.

E. Blodgett noted that a maker space could coordinate with Community Ed and the school district.

M. Blodgett notes there is room for partnership between the public library and the school district.

A. Ames & E. Blodgett all note that a makerspace would benefit homeschooled children and could offer daytime programming. C. Kyser stated her children attend an online public school and have daytime availability to attend library programming.

C. McNamara likes the intergenerational aspect that a maker space could create. The Glenwood City Public Library consistently brings people into their flexible work area.

J. Markham said makerspace could host one and two-off events – not what the school has to offer – for a wider group.

Committee discussion about conference rooms accessible to the public, possibly outside of library hours. Per M. Blodgett, Roberts Library is an example of separate, lockable conference rooms. J. Thompson states key fobs can be set to expire at a certain time so groups have limited access to the library after hours. Can exit the building but not re-enter.

E. Blodgett asked if volunteer staff must have special training if library staff aren't present for community events involving youth. Per J. Thomspson, the hosting group (ex. Scouts) is ultimately responsible for the children's safety. Also noted that public libraries aren't mandatory reporters.

J. Markham mentioned that 35% of current library users are 45 and older. Is this group being served? K. Anderson noted a lack of interest in programming. C. Kyser points out that that segment of the population is busy with children and caring for older parents.

Per C. McNamara, in Glenwood City, the Friends of the Library operates the book club, not the library staff. Also, getting us into a "flat" building (no stairs or ramp) would be a huge plus to the community

Committee discussion about internal spaces within the library. Noted a need for adult seating and adequate space between the children's area and computers. Also, conference rooms of varying sizes that could be reserved. Some foster families make use of the current library's back

room for bio parent meetings. Would the maker space be a dedicated room? What storage considerations are there for a maker space? J Thompson, examples of maker space in our budget, Somerset.

J. Markham suggests the committee talks further about conference rooms and maker space with Val in August. Suggests we discuss book inventory needs.

M Blodgett, currently when staff buy a book they have to withdraw a book. There is no room for face-outs, which boosts circulation. Notes that the committee should eventually discuss bins versus shelves for the new children's section.

J. Thompson, currently the library's collection is 9,500. Do we want 20,000? Shelving for 20,000 would allow 15,000 with faceouts. Also noted that new library shelves would be much shorter than currently shelving.

M. Blodgett, new spanish material & large print books will grow our inventory. Note that in the past, e-readers (Kindle & Nook) weren't popular.

K. Anderson noted that the DVD selection could expand.

J. Thompson noted there could be a recording studio in the maker space that would allow podcasts, garage bands, and oral histories from local people.

C. McNamara, important for the new library to have a space to host displays and rotating collections, as Boyceville does not have its own historical society.

J. Markham did a time check at 6:27 p.m.

M. Blodgett asked about a janitorial closet. J Thompson noted that one is required by code.

J. Markham, next meeting is July 10th at 5:00 p.m. Proposed that committee merge our discussion/information about library programs. Then, jump into specifics of the facility. J. Thompson will send the outline with notes to everyone.

The July 24th meeting is left open for either topic (programs or facility).

No objections from the committee.

At the next meeting, the committee will discuss selecting a vice chair.

6:35 pm. J. Markham moved to end the meeting. Unanimous agreement.