

Rough notes Library Committee October 9, 2023

J. Markham, K. Anderson, E. Blodgett, M. Blodgett, A. Peterson, , A. Ames, C. Lange, G. Julson, C. McNamara

**Board Members Absent:** C. Kyser was listening on the phone when possible.

Jamie called the meeting to order at 5:03 am.

Jaimie

Jaimie asked our librarian and emeriti librarians to present highlights of some items that they see as points of concern. Christina offered to take photos of notes put on the white board. Curt set up an audio recording app on his phone as a backup.

- One area of concern is the location of the circulation desk relative to the bulk of the patrons, it would be nice to shift it eastward. The drop box probably does need to be where it is because of the overhang, etc. Could swap the workroom/office? The proposed circulation desk is HUGE, 32 feet seems excessive, perhaps an L-shaped desk? Definitely reduce rows of fixed computers, maybe be able to find a bit of space for storage?
- Move the small maker-space bar to another location, put in sink, dishwasher, stuff for limited refreshments at events. Can Mechanical space be shrunk in favor of more storage? Storage under the (very short) stage?
- They like the children's area!
- How about a console gaming space in the teen area, just around the corner of the row of rooms? Looking at the first row of tall bookshelves between teen and adult, could that be a solid wall for teens to put up artwork? (And sound buffer between the areas.) The librarians enjoy interacting with the teens and many of the teens seem to enjoy that interaction. Lots of outlets/charging stations, especially in the teen section!
- They have serious concerns about the courtyard and would like to see at least some of that area utilized for a self-contained Maker Space. No conflict when there are events in the other parts of the library, but still easy for staff to keep an eye on it, go to ask questions. The initial square-footage estimate came from a formula provided by John (we think) and it would cost more to enclose more area. Not cooking classes, that can go to the school Community Ed. But a sink for paint clean-up, etc would be vital. Perhaps a dedicated space will enable us to be more responsive to changes. Unused courtyard space could be greenspace, but they really don't want a free exit/entrance over there. QUESTION: will there need to be a fire exit somewhere on the east end of the building? Need a balance of storage space with windows for light.

Should the big Multipurpose Room be available after hours? The design does allow the flexibility to let the public use it without any entry into the rest of the library. Even some of the restrooms would be after hours available.

Restrooms: is there space for a Mother's Room? Could it be incorporated into one of the larger restrooms? Perhaps adjacent to the Maker Space/Children's area once we expand into the courtyard? Could that be a possible alternate use for the small meeting room? The small meeting room might need to be a sign-up for usage. Very few libraries have totally enclosed public meeting rooms, but that is something that the architects can change with a few clicks of a mouse, once the Library Board makes a decision. We identified several places where people could hold Zoom meetings without disrupting other patrons.

Curt recalled that it will be important to get some of these features summarized for sharing with the public when we go for getting public input.

Storage: you just can't have enough!

Mechanical room: make it as small as feasible!

Display area: we were not sure where that is on the plan – the long white space north of the bathrooms? Is there wall space for community bulletin board in the entry hallway?

Changing tables in all restrooms? (We are fine with gender neutral bathrooms, so the question of urinals came up.)

Orchard – we are excited about the possibilities! Space for a story walk, maybe a bike rack at the south edge of the orchard, benches. Maybe get in on a rotating sculpture program like in Eau Claire/Menomonie. Room for donor bricks on the walkway in the orchard? Benches in the orchard could be used for recognizing donors.

Free brainstorming:

- A small gaming space for younger kids? At least some sort of hands-on fun stuff for little ones.
- We think the present plan has good spaces for home schoolers and Scout troops to do activities.
- Nontraditional items like snowshoes, telescopes, etc – where do we store them? Any way to display them so people know what is available?
- Puppet theater? Lite-brite style art wall?

### Site Control and Acquisition

Jaimie is still worried that if no one is working on acquiring the site, then all our work is for nothing. Jaimie, John, and Kallie had one meeting with part of the Library Board back in August, along with the people who currently own the land, so there was some initial movement. Jaimie suggested that we look for opportunities to discuss the project with Village Board members or Library Board members. We are the ones that will keep this project moving!

Kallie will try to get the results of the survey that the Village of Boyceville, noting that she thinks residence in the village is not a requirement for filling out the survey. Check to see if you got a postcard about it!

We talked a bit about community engagement, should we form a subcommittee? We can make discussion of that a big focus for our next meeting, with the hope that the architects might have some useful items for us. Maybe some fold-out displays of the floor plan, listing some of the key features. We have community events coming up, and we can consider getting something in the paper.

Earl moved to adjourn, Amy seconded.  
We adjourned at 6:29 pm. Woot!