



Library Design Committee

5/24/05

Minutes

Present: Bill Aslett, Janice Burwash, Joe DeGloria, Helen Doyle, Larry Edwards, Ross Jamieson, Christine Perkins, Ben Schertzer, Jane Sneeringer, Sally Straathof, Joan Martin, Shelly Ibarra, Val Sanders

Submitted by: Janice Burwash

Meeting convened at the Burlington Public Library at 6:05 p.m. Christine began by introducing the committee members and welcoming new members Joan Martin and Shelly Ibarra.

Ross gave a report from an arborist who has looked at the cedar tree that is on the property. The preliminary report is that the tree is in "decent shape" even though it does have several crowns. The arborist will be submitting a full written report soon.

Jon reminded the committee that he comes from a Parks and Rec background, and thus understands the desire to save existing trees. He suggested that the members consider how retaining the tree will impact the building design and consider the life of the tree (possibly 15 more years) versus the life of the building that we are planning. There was a discussion about the impact of saving the tree and the resulting affect that will have on the final building design. There were also several suggestions of how the wood from the tree could be used if it is taken down. One possibility was saving a section to put on display in the library entrance area, with notations made relating to the growth rings and events in the history of the Burlington community. Another involved using the wood for a fireplace mantel. There seemed to be some support for not designing around the tree, but no final decision was made.

Ross showed several plans for orienting the building on the site and in relationship to existing streets and parking. He talked about possible placement of an exterior bookdrop and what it would take to make that accessible to disabled people. The group discussed the possibility of a drive-up bookdrop, considering ease of use and accessibility.

Ross had created 5 Space Relationship Studies for the new library building. These simple diagrams showed several different arrangements of the basic spaces within the design: lobby/entrance, public meeting space, staff work space, the children's area and general collection/public space. He walked us though each option, highlighting the variations. The members seemed to favor the fourth option that had a connection between the meeting room and children's area and areas for outdoor plantings with seating.

The committee looked at several Building Design Profile ideas. Based on input from the previous meeting, there were several options that included clerestory windows, which would let in natural light and create the feeling of the library being a presence in the neighborhood, especially at night. It was suggested that some type of agricultural element could be added to the design, possibly something that gave the feel of a barn or tower/silo. Ross will work with that idea. After much discussion, several options were chosen for further development: the north clerestory and the ridge clerestory designs.

The next step in the design process will be to develop the selected Building Design Profiles taking into account the layout of the favored Space Relationship Study. Ross will complete those and have them ready for viewing and discussion at our next meeting.

Christine announced that the library is planning to have a table in the park on Saturday, June 25 during Berry Dairy Days. This will be an opportunity to share the building design progress to date and get public input. The table needs to be manned from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. in two-hour shifts and anyone who would like to help with this should contact Christine or Janice at the library, 755-0760.

All members of the committee received a copy of the Building Program Draft that contains detailed descriptions of spaces and furnishings to be included in the new library building. They were asked to read this as they have time before our next meeting.

Next meeting dates:

Tuesday, May 31 at 6 p.m. in the Library Conference Room
Tuesday, June 21 at 6 p.m. in the Library Conference Room
(note the change in meeting room)

A tour of the Snohomish and Mukilteo libraries was set for Tuesday, June 7, leaving the library at 4 p.m. Sally and Jane are available, anyone one else who is able to go may contact Christine or Janice at the library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.