



Library Design Committee

7/12/2005

Minutes

Present: Jon Aarstad, Bill Aslett, Janice Burwash, Joe DeGloria, Helen Doyle, Larry Edwards, Christine Perkins, Val Sanders, Jane Sneeringer, Peggy Stowe, Sally Straathof, Ross Jamieson and Brody Thayer from Lewis Architects and Boyka Thayer from Tattersall Design.

Submitted by: Janice Burwash

Meeting convened in the City Hall Conference Room at 7:05. This meeting followed a meeting of the Library Board of Trustees.

Ross began the meeting with a quick over view of the site plan, interior schematic design and the building design profile. The schematic design has been evolving as Ross has spent time meeting with the library staff.

Larry asked about street closures. Ross shared that there did not seem to be much to gain in terms of additional parking, and that keeping the streets open would allow for more flexible access to the library. We are considering other ways to slow traffic along the routes to the library to make the area more pedestrian-friendly and safe, including "traffic tables" (like flatter speed bumps) at the intersections, bulb-out corners and colored pavers to indicate crosswalks. We are also considering extending the old-fashioned lightposts from Fairhaven Avenue down Holly Streets. We discussed the possibility of traffic coming to the library from Anacortes Streets and the need to continue the paving patterns at each corner around the library.

Jane and Larry asked about applying for LEED Certification. Ross said that they would certainly be looking at the requirements but not applying for certification. The paperwork is lengthy and the filing fees are costly. However, we will follow many of the LEED guidelines that make most sense in our case. The basic shape of our building is very energy efficient; the overall glazing area is small (number of windows) and there is a low percentage of glass on the Western and Southern exposures.

There was a discussion about light, both natural light and sun exposure and interior lighting. We will be modeling light options using a computer program that tracks the light for this latitude at various points of the day and year. Ross will be mitigating any harsh sun exposure with overhangs and we will consider mechanical shades and trellises. There will be natural light in the interior from the cupolas. This could be enhanced with hanging light fixtures that would reflect light up as well as down. Boyka mentioned the use of table lamps in seating areas near windows. These could be turned on at night to be inviting from the building exterior.

The committee spent time discussing exterior materials. Ross gave several possibilities and shared photos that showed examples of each material. The possibilities included shakes, stucco, split face concrete blocks and metal siding. He suggested that on the higher north and south walls we might want to consider a combination of several materials. One factor to consider will be the maintenance costs over time for various materials. There seemed to be a feeling that the building itself has very interesting lines and the materials should be kept simple. Also, we discussed the civic nature of the building and the fact it needs to hold up over time and look substantial.

Two possibilities for roofing materials are metal roofing and composition shingles.

Ross will develop plans showing various exterior materials for the next committee meeting.

The central area of the public space will have high ceilings with a wood ceiling and exposed wood beams.

Boyka will begin working on the interior colors, themes and furnishings and asked for general direction from the committee. The following ideas were shared:

- River theme
 - Possibly in the flooring with carpet or entry materials
 - River rock in the fireplace, planters
 - Color scheme
- Warm, soothing
- A living room for the community
- Wood
- Timeless / classic materials and features

It was mentioned again that there is a desire to have space for displaying public art from local artists, along with some permanent art features.

Ross passed out cost information including a preliminary project budget and a cost estimate from The Robinson Company. Robinson estimates the construction cost to be in the neighborhood of \$4 million; combined with the soft costs, furnishings, equipment, tax and other costs listed in the preliminary project budget the total comes to \$6.5 million. He went through the cost estimate and answered questions concerning various line items. The estimate is within the range that the city council had been given. The construction costs are estimated to be around \$190 per square foot; in comparison recent projects such as the Ballard Library in Seattle have run closer to \$300 per square foot.

Upcoming meeting date:

Tuesday, August 2 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Committee meeting in the Library Conference Room. This meeting will follow the monthly Library Board of Trustees meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.