



## **Library Design Committee**

8/02/2005

Minutes

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

Submitted by: Janice Burwash

Meeting convened in the Library Conference Room at 7:10. This meeting followed a meeting of the Library Board of Trustees.

Christine opened the meeting by letting the committee know that at the July 28 City Council Meeting the council members approved the Contract Rezone to construct a new Public Library in Burlington.

Ross shared information on development of the library site. It has been determined that it will be economically feasible to eliminate the power pole on the North side of the building site. There is a line going to the Baptist Church that will have to be buried. Jon indicated that street improvements would probably be included in the overall cost of the new facility but that our initial estimates looked at site improvements and construction costs and other costs directly attributable to the library.

The committee discussed several options for library signage along Fairhaven Avenue.. Jane reminded the committee of the city park signage that has been developed and asked if the library signage could be of a similar design. Brody shared that a programmable, electric reader board (with an LCD screen) could cost up to \$35,000 per side. Jon has seen options for far less. Christine said that she hoped some type of reader board could be included in the design, as it is an important way for the library to remind patrons of library programs and to let non-users know what is going on at their city library. The consensus seemed to be for a street-level sign at the intersection of Fairhaven and Holly that could possibly incorporate elements of the Park signage design and include a reader board with the message protected behind glass. One of the five proposed designs shown included directional signs on arms with arrows. It was suggested that this type of sign might be appropriate at the northeast corner of the site with arms pointing towards the Library, Senior Center and the Parks and Rec building. The City Wayfinding project includes signage of this type and our sign design should try to match this style, too.

Jane asked about the storm water and if it would be possible to use some of this water for irrigation. Ross said the storm water would be going to the side streets, possibly Anacortes Street. He thought it might be possible to capture the roof run-off.

Ross shared several elements in the development of the interior floor plan.

#### Friends Nook:

The Friends Nook will be off the lobby, close to the entrance into the library. The latest plan includes a storage space about 10" by 10". The open area could include three sections of shelving for Used Books, a small café table with chairs and space for beverage and snack vending machines.

#### Library Display Cabinet:

The antique library cabinet will be placed just inside the doors into the library from the lobby. This will be available for library displays, local classroom projects and displays and collections belonging to community members.

#### Meeting Room:

The meeting room will be 2,000 sf and have a soundproof divider that can be closed to divide the room into two separate spaces. There will be a screen for viewing projected programs and white board for writing. A chair rail will run along the walls that would allow for display of project and information boards. It would also be possible to include a picture rail that would accommodate hanging pictures and artwork. Each side will have a small kitchenette with a sink and the committee felt that it would be good to include a small refrigerator and microwave on each side.

There was discussion about the doors that would lead from the meeting room(s) to the patio on the east side. The consensus seemed to be that these could be exit only doors with no handles on the exterior.

#### Children's Feature:

Ross showed two possible designs for the Children's Feature, one with an attached child-sized table and one with shallow steps leading up to a second level. There was discussion of the purpose of this feature and the issue of liability and safety in the case of a two level design. Christine shared that her vision of the feature would be that it was child-size, colorful, whimsical, inviting and cozy. Val mentioned including a space where an adult can sit with a child and look at books. Ben suggested the possibility of pillows as seating. The idea of a shallow "pit" was suggested, something that a child could climb into. We talked about this feature being attractive to kids but not something that turned into an indoor play area.

#### Fireplace:

Ross showed several design ideas for the fireplace feature in the lounge area. The committee seemed to prefer the design with some type of stone or rock facing. It was suggested that a mantle would provide space for seasonal displays. Joe stressed the importance of making sure that steps are taken to minimize any danger of children getting burned on a hot surface. Jon wondered if the design would incorporate fans to circulate

heat. NOTE: Christine toured Mukilteo Library, where the fireplace was set a few inches back into the chimney, and a permanent screen set flush to the edge of the chimney. There was no raised hearth, further reducing the likelihood that someone would get overly close to the fireplace by sitting on a ledge.

#### Windows:

There was discussion in several areas of the design about the possibility of operable windows that would be opened for air circulation. Ross said that a decision has not been made in window selection. It was noted that library collection security is an issue, and we don't want to provide patrons with a way to "toss" library materials out of the building.

#### Ceiling Design:

In the central area of the public space there will be high ceilings with wood, exposed wood beams and some steel. Over the non-fiction and fiction book stacks the ceilings will be lower (about 11") with acoustical tile. In the gabled areas on the east side of the building there will be variations in ceiling heights and materials.

Jane asked about sustainable timber. Ross said because of limited availability this would be a more expensive choice.

#### Lights:

In the central area there could be fixtures with tube lights attached at a lower level along beams, along with "wash lights" along the walls. Lighting over book stacks can be aligned with the stacks for maximum effectiveness. Boyka is still suggesting table lamps in the casual seating areas. Christine asks that all light fixtures include economical, standard-sized replacement bulbs that can be purchased locally.

#### Mechanical System:

The heating system will be a series of heat pumps, and the library will be divided into several heating zones. Ross shared that the mechanical engineers have suggested having a separate zone for the Group Study Room, which would require a piece of equipment to be located outside that space where landscaping has been planned. There was discussion about whether or not this would be required. The room will be designed to hold 6 – 8 people in a group study/meeting setting. The space will be reserved, not just open and available, which may eliminate the possibility of too many people in the room at one time.

Jane wondered about the use of some type of solar panels. They may be a possibility for hot water. Ross shared that typically it can take up to 80 years before the cost of the solar panel investment "pays off".

#### Exterior materials:

Ross presented drawings that showed several possibilities for exterior materials. Most were a combination of stucco, broken-faced textured blocks, bricks or metal siding. There will be some wood trim in areas that will be less open to weathering. It was felt that maintenance costs and durability should both be considerations. Val had concerns about the front entry awning design, whether it was large enough and if the design would allow for adequate drainage. Ben reminded the committee of the suggestion for an entry awning

that resembles an open book. It was noted that there are also smaller awnings to either side of the main front entrance. The central awning is shaped like a wheel or hub, with wooden “spokes” as accents.

Interior themes and materials:

Boyka shared that the themes she took from the committee at the last meeting were: The River, Warm, and Soothing. With these themes in mind she developed three color palettes. Boyka built the palettes from the floor up and there will be three types of flooring in the building. Tile in the entry and public restrooms, carpet in the meeting room, public library areas and staff work areas and linoleum in the staff breakroom.

Tile:

Small, flat rock could be used along the edges of the lobby area, suggesting the shores of the river. This would be combined with larger stone tiles.

Carpet:

For the carpeted areas, Boyka suggested two coordinating designs to help delineate special areas: circulation and the staff work area, the children’s area and possibly the teen area.

Casework:

A warm, blonde maple would be used for either scheme.

Following Boyka’s presentation, the committee members spent time considering the three options. The committee seemed to prefer color palettes #2, the gray-green geometric, and #3, the earth-tone leaf pattern. But they would like to see the leaf pattern in another color option if possible. Boyka will work on having a sample to show at the next meeting.

Upcoming meeting date: Tuesday, August 16 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the library conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.