



Library Design Committee

8/16/2005

Minutes

Present: Janice Burwash, Joe DeGloria, Helen Doyle, Larry Edwards, Joan Martin, 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 City Hall Conference Room at 6.00.

Christine opened the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation showing various building exterior materials, the fireplace in the Snohomish library and the fireplace and children's feature in the Mukilteo library.

Ross talked about developments in the site plan including signage. One possibility that is being considered is a "sidewalk bulb" at the southeast corner of the intersection of Fairhaven and Holly. This would allow placement of an informational sign that could easily be seen and read by people traveling on Fairhaven. The sign could incorporate a reader board behind glass and be similar in design to the park signs, with columns and river rock.

It was suggested that it might be desirable to look into burying power lines and eliminating the power poles at that corner.

Ross will be talking to Rod in the Engineering/Public Works Department about extending the street lights from Fairhaven down Holly.

It would be a good idea to look at a long-range master plan for visually connecting the new library, the new Parks and Rec Department (in the current city hall building) and Maiben Park including the Senior Center through the use of lighting, landscaping and street/parking designs.

As per a comment at the last committee meeting, Ross talked to the landscaper about capturing roof rainwater for landscape watering. He will also incorporate native, drought-resistant plants.

Floor plan and interior spaces and features

Fireplace:

Ross is working on a fireplace design that is vertical to the ceiling and incorporates some type of rock or stone, possibly from a local source. There will be a small, raised hearth and recessed glass, possibly covered with a screen. Both these features will help reduce the risk of children getting burned. Joan pointed out the location of the fireplace, separated from the children's area by the "snake wall", will further insure children's safety. A mantle will allow for seasonal decorations if desired. The fireplace will be gas with a key switch.

Children's Feature:

The new design is a feature that children would climb in, rather than climb on. The design as shown has a roofline that is somewhat reminiscent of an open book. This idea could be further developed. The feature will be in direct line of sight from the information desk to allow for oversight by library staff. In the current plan, the feature is about 8" by 10" and will incorporate seating, storage and display.

The current feature design does not include the steps/risers of the first design. But children's programming will take place in the conference room, and if in the future there was a need for a stage or risers some type of portable unit could be purchased.

Circulation Desk:

The circ desk will incorporate both staffed checkout (accounts) and self-check. It will be a simple design, not a large imposing desk. There will be uniform signage throughout the building for things such as Accounts, Self-Check, Information, and the various collections.

Larry asked if signage would be in both English and Spanish. Joan felt that because of the large and growing Hispanic population in the area we should have bilingual signage. Also she said that it shows respect when signage is included in their native language. Other members of the committee felt that the trend is for the succeeding generations to learn English and for that reason felt that it might not be necessary to offer bilingual signage. Because this is a decision that could affect other city departments, it was felt that it is something that the city council should discuss and decide.

Meeting Room(s):

Both sides of the meeting room will have identical kitchen facilities with a sink, microwave and small under-counter refrigerator. The doors to the outside courtyard have been changed to reflect the clearance information that we received from the puppet theater presenters.

Time Capsule:

Ross asked if the committee wanted space for a time capsule to be incorporated in the design. The consensus seemed to be that this would be something that we would like to do.

Genealogy Area:

We have shared the preliminary design with members of the Skagit Valley Genealogy Society who welcome the additional space for their collection.

Fire Sprinkler System:

Ross has consulted with the Burlington Fire Chief. Because of the size of the building, we do have to include a sprinkler system. But it will be both heat and smoke activated which will insure that it goes off only when needed. Also Ross pointed out that it is not the normal situation for all the sprinkler heads to go off at once, rather only those that have detected heat and smoke would activate. Current regulations do not mandate that manual pull-alarms be installed.

Mechanical systems

In terms of LEED certification, they are applying those standards that make sense for the design, but not necessarily with the goal of LEED certification in mind.

Ross talked about natural versus forced ventilation, stating that natural can be unpredictable. Another possibility uses filtered outside air when possible based on outside temperature. A carbon dioxide sensor is another possibility, as what is perceived as stale air is often an excess of carbon dioxide. This costs approximately \$5,000 with a 2-year payback window; it keeps you from over-ventilating the building.

A Digital Control System would cost between \$60,000 and \$70,000. This would monitor energy use. Ross will talk to Ivan about the feasibility of this type of system. It might be a good idea to bid the project both with and without the system. This would work well if tied in with the City Hall project also.

A conduit for a Security Alarm System could be included so that a system could be retrofitted easily at a later date if it is something that is not included in the original plan. It would likely involve motion sensors. Oftentimes security companies install the hardware in exchange for a subscription to their monitoring service. Security can also be tied into the fire alarm system.

The building will be purged with outside air for several weeks before occupancy to eliminate fumes from materials such as paint and adhesives.

Several possible water saving features were discussed including flushless urinals, low-flow and automatic plumbing fixtures. Ross said that some of these actually have been shown to use more water. He will talk to Ivan about the various possibilities.

The family restroom off the children's area can have a lower ADA height counter since it is intended primarily for children (including disabled children) and all restrooms will have wall mounted changing tables.

There are maximum wattage lighting standards and Ross will work with the lighting specialist to make sure that we are close to these limits. Because of the amount of natural light that will be available during the day, there will be controls to allow some lights to be turned off.

Jane had looked into the possibility of including solar panels in the design, possibly to preheat water. Ross said that those types of systems can have as much as a 20-30 year payback time. Jane found that Puget Sound Energy has grants available. One requirement is that the project must have an educational component. Members of the team have been in touch with PSE, and Ross will have them ask about the grant programs available.

Exterior materials

The committee was shown a plan for the building exterior that included a 2' concrete stem wall with the majority of the building covered in gray and tan shades of rough bricks. Under the roof peak there would be vertical corrugated metal siding in a barn red/rust color. The roofing material would be gray metal. The roof is metal with a baked-on finish, similar to a car. They often come with 30-year fading guarantees.

Interior palette and materials

Boyka showed the committee another color choice for the leaf patterned carpet that was shades of tan with blue and green. The consensus of the committee was to go with this new carpet choice and color palette.

Other thoughts

In planning how the various material collections will fit into the new space, the staff is hoping that initially they will not have to use the bottom shelves in most cases. And in the case of the taller fiction and non-fiction stacks to also leave the top shelves for expansion. Val asked if it would also be possible to leave the bottom shelves free in the children's section, as it is often adults who are choosing children's books.

Upcoming meeting date: Tuesday, September 20 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the library conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.