

Deerfield Public Library Board of Trustees
Regular meeting minutes
June 23, 2009
(Reconvening of June 17, 2009)

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:48 pm. Present: Board members: President Ken Abosch, Jeff Rivlin, Mike Goldberg, and Mary Courtney. Staff: Library Director Mary Pergander.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No guests addressed the board.

3. Mr. Abosch clarified that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the printed and verbal report of the architects presented on June 17, 2009. This was the board's first opportunity to discuss the materials presented, after having time to read and review the concepts presented. He reminded those present that the architects have presented an assessment of the possibilities. The board is free to accept, reject or alter the suggestions, and also free to select a new architect for the future. In order to focus the discussion, he suggested the following points be covered:

1. Discussion of the architect findings.
2. Are there further questions for the architect?
3. Ideas on how to share the findings
4. Provide feedback to PSADewberry
5. Discuss any desired next steps
6. Shall we use the same architect firm in the future?
7. What is a reasonable timeline for moving forward?

He cautioned that there is a propensity to jump ahead or to over-interpret the findings as a plan. But it is just a space study. All decisions/possibilities are still open.

A thorough review of the written report then followed, including a review of the possible first steps identified by the architects: Discussion with local leaders, site investigation, pre-design, design, approvals process, and construction delivery methods.

Mr. Goldberg cautioned against involving the public too early, since there are no plans yet. Mr. Rivlin noted that parking is a quadrant problem, not just a library problem. Mr. Abosch invited a discussion of with whom to share the findings, how to share them, and how to proceed with the general public. Mr. Goldberg also noted that there are budget realities and funding considerations. Ms. Courtney commented that the architect's presentation to the board was not effective, and a process summary should have been included. This will be noted as a feedback point for them.

The written report components include the vision statements, summaries of the focus group meetings, building efficacy assessment, building survey, and space needs assessment including peer comparisons, and planning options.

Mr. Rivlin requested that, for comparison, the architects also be asked to calculate the cost of a new building. Ms. Courtney noted that the space needs calculation and the space available with expansion are very similar, although calculated independently.

Mr. Abosch then reviewed the summary of the architect's recommendations: A small expansion of 10,000 feet, a major renovation, major capital maintenance replacements and code compliance. Suggestions include relocating the entrance to the northwest corner of the building, creating open, flexible interior spaces, reconfiguring parking and traffic flow, exploring LEED certification, and possibly space for the Friends group and the local historical society.

Mr. Goldberg noted that the assessment seems thorough and usable. We will share feedback with PSADewberry that the expectations, priorities and goals on pg. 10 of the report seem to be a good

summary of what the board and manages were saying to the architects. Some board members were expecting more detailed sketches, or other layout options to be included in the final report. This will also be shared with the architects.

The board then discussed ideas on how to share the findings. Acknowledging the difficult economic environment, it is important to consider both the taxpayer stakeholders and also community leaders. This is a publicly funded entity, and we have pledged to keep the public informed. The library newsletter and local newspaper are options, too. The full board will need to have input.

Ms. Pergander will meet with some local leaders in this quadrant to present the findings and discuss parking. She will also ask who else to inform and their ideas for how to do so. For example, should our board president approach the mayor for a courtesy briefing? How and when should the Village Planning department be updated? In addition, "brown bag lunch" sessions will be held with library staff members in the next few days to share the findings with them as well.

For public meetings, the following suggestions were discussed:

1. Focus group participants and the Friends of the Library, in late July. A few board members should be present for this.
2. Meetings for the general public in a large meeting room – perhaps offsite such as Pattie Turner Senior Center. The full board and the architects should be present. September, after vacations are finished, might be the best time for good turnout.
3. Article in Browsing, the library newsletter.

We will want the architect display boards for these meetings. Ms. Pergander will request them.

There was concern about quorum for the next regular meeting of the board on July 15. Ms. Courtney will confirm this, and offer alternative dates if needed. We would need to give the public ten days notice if a regularly-scheduled meeting is changed.

To continue this discussion with the full board, there will be a special meeting of the full board on July 11 from 11 am to 1 pm.

Ms. Courtney made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm. Mr. Rivlin seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Ron Simon, Board Secretary