

**DESIGN PROCESS TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Deerfield Public Library Board of Trustees**  
**Deerfield Public Library**  
**April 16, 2011**

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m.

Attending: Board: Ken Abosch - President, Mary Courtney, Marla Bark Dembitz, Sunday Mueller, Jeff Rivlin, and Ron Simon. Staff: Mary Pergander - Library Director, Carol Dolin - Business Manager. PSA Dewberry Design Team: Doug Pfeiffer, Jennifer Betancourt, and Brian Meade.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD, and CORRESPONDENCE.

No one addressed the Board.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

None.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS - Discussion – Board Integrated Design Charrette #2

A. Introduction

Ms. Betancourt outlined the goal of the Charrette, which is to get Board direction regarding the exterior concepts, massing, materials, and overall interior adjacencies.

B. Exterior concepts, massing, and materials

Mr. Meade described the rationale behind the proposed concepts to the Board. He illustrated the linear and modular architectural style and the load bearing piers of the existing building that must remain or be disguised. He displayed samples of colors and materials in the current building and demonstrated ways they might be integrated with new materials in the renovation and new construction. Some materials may be reclaimed from the demolition and reused, including brick and walnut from the interior. He also discussed potential costs of various alternatives. These ideas formed the underpinnings of the concepts being presented at this time.

- 1) Roof alternatives – The presentation included several exterior concepts with hip roof and flat roof options. The hip roof creates continuity with Village Hall and mutes the linear, modular style of the existing structure. The flat roof options update and accentuate the existing architectural style, but do not blend as well with Village Hall. The hip roof options would add significantly to the cost of the exterior.

The Board prefers the flat roof concept, which celebrates the clean lines of the original architecture and updates the building in a fresh, exciting way.

- 2) Mechanical penthouse options – The new mechanicals will require a substantially larger penthouse. Several options were presented to meet the space requirements for the new equipment while avoiding an unsightly “hat” on top of the building. An energy wheel for the heating/cooling system requires additional height and condensing units require additional linear space. The additional space can be achieved by building two penthouses or a single larger penthouse that extends over the rear parking lot. The structure can extend to the ground, anchoring it in the design or can be built completely on top of the building.

The Board prefers a single mechanical penthouse extending out from the building to create covered parking at the back of the building as the first choice. If this option is not possible, either from a structural standpoint of lack of Commissions or Village approval, the Board's goal is to reduce shadows or any impediment to natural light flow in the entry.

- 3) Entry structure – The concepts presented a Y-shaped structure or a cantilever spine support for the extension at the west pavilion entry point.

The Board prefers the cantilevered spine support over the entry.

- 4) Building materials that integrate or differentiate the new construction and existing building

The Board prefers to use materials that integrate new construction with the existing building, especially where the option is green, as long as it fits into the budget, is practical, and will endure for the life of the building. This may include cleaning and reusing reclaimed brick on the exterior or using reclaimed maple in interior spaces.

C. Overall interior building layout

1) Main Level – entry, lobby, adult seating, circulation, multi-media, teen, & youth

The concept features a dramatic, high volume entrance filled with natural light. The entrance opens into an adult seating area with a fireplace and windows to the north and west, restrooms, vending, stand-up computer terminals, print and copy center, Board Room, Friends book sale space, a grand staircase, elevator to the meeting rooms and lower level, and materials drop off. The main level also houses circulation, multimedia, teen, a second adult seating area with periodicals, a children's pavilion with a large play area, program room, family restrooms, study rooms, young adult gathering area, and public computers, and staff workspaces. Security gates allow access to the main level entry and lower level meeting rooms while the remainder of the Library is closed.

The Board responded positively to this concept, saying each design round looks better than the previous. They commented favorably on the light filled entry and adult reading room with fireplace near the entry, which creates an area where adults can feel separate, but not isolated, from other activities in the Library. The Board also expressed approval of the ability to lock off the meeting rooms and entry from the upper and lower levels. They requested a heated walkway from the book drops to the entry to assist with bringing materials in from outdoors in winter weather.

2) Lower Level – meeting rooms, readers services, reference, adult seating, public computing, technology lab

The concept features a sunken 120-seat meeting room that can be subdivided into three smaller meeting rooms on the west end of the building, a kitchenette, elevator that stops both at the meeting room level and at the main lower level, a light filled grand staircase, restrooms, public computers, a technology lab, study rooms of varying sizes, adult fiction and reference, quiet reading areas near light courts, and staff work areas.

The Board questioned the rationale behind the technology lab and the number of public computers, stairs up to the restrooms from the meeting rooms, evacuation routes the meeting room, and the wall around the quiet adult reading area. Suggestions for improvement included making the technology lab a classroom, incorporating additional flexibility in the approach to public computers and computing space, adding a handicapped accessible restroom on the same level as the meeting room, and establishing quiet reading areas with furnishings and signage rather than glass walls, which can feel claustrophobic and may impede flexibility in how the space is used. The Board requested that book group discussions never be held in the quiet reading area.

D. Next steps

The architects will take the feedback from the Board and further refine the drawings. Ms. Pergander and the architects are scheduled to meet with representatives from the Village and Commissions on Monday, April 18. The goals of this meeting are to share the concepts and get feedback that will help the architects understand what is required to gain Village and commissions approval of the designs. The architects will incorporate that feedback and come back to the staff and Board for a final round of charrettes in the coming weeks.

6. Meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.