

**Wayland Free Public Library  
Library Planning Committee  
Minutes of Meeting on May 28, 2015  
Raytheon Room, Wayland Public Library**

**Present:** Christine Cipriani, Tom Fay, Aida Gennis, Anne Heller, Judy Hoyer, Sarah Hubbell, Ann Knight, Vicki LaFarge, Daryl Mark, Barbara Scolnick, Rachel Sideman-Kurtz, Bill Steinberg, Thom White, Jessica Yurkofsky

**Call to Order** at 7:05 p.m. by Tom Fay, chair of the Library Planning Committee

**Public comment**

Tom Fay reported that the Library Planning Committee meeting scheduled for May 27 did not have a quorum so the assembled members met unofficially to review the recently completed visits to area libraries. A summary of the discussion will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting. He thanked Vicki LaFarge for facilitating the meeting.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes for the meeting of April 30, 2015, were approved unanimously.

**Reports of Further Research Study Groups**

Tom Fay asked members of the subcommittee charged with conducting additional research about library trends to report on their findings.

Thom White researched Architectural Design Concepts and presented six approaches to 21<sup>st</sup> century libraries by highlighting newly constructed facilities in Halifax, Nova Scotia; Pico, California; Birmingham, United Kingdom; Seinijoki, Finland; Bourg-la-Reine, France; and Raleigh, North Carolina. Key features follow:

- Halifax public library: big architectural grand gesture in the structure- resembles stacked glass boxes, yet feel of a community “living room,” a connection with the outside through windows and lighting, flexible space use, and state-of-the-art noise abatement ceilings, noted that one space would have several uses;
- Pico public library: a simple structure with a community center orientation, there is no reference/circulation desk – this function is done electronically, librarians circulate and assist patrons, exterior courtyard used for farmers’ markets and other community activities
- Birmingham public library: an urban renewal effort here, a Victorian-era building with a modern addition with an abstract facade with a pattern reminiscent of Victorian lace, cafes on every floor, counter against the windows for reading, staircase which links the children’s area to the main library yet separates them, gathering spaces are inside the library;
- Seinijoke public library: expansion to accommodate children and teen collection and programming, there is a drop in the floor inside, graphics are used to show teen reading spaces, moveable bookcases, pods in the floor for reading;
- Bourg-la-Reine, France's public library: central exterior courtyard, reading areas face to the center courtyard and windows line the courtyard, open floor plan with areas for meeting and reading, attention to acoustics and sound abatement, connections with the outside, creation of a sense of spaciousness with angular geometries;
- James B. Hunt Library, University of North Carolina: tech think tank, lots of collaborative spaces, complete automation of the book request/delivery system, books stored underground, no

browsing of books on bookshelves possible, individual and group study rooms connected by space, media rooms, this is a research library, goal for it to have 50-100 year use and duration.

- All these libraries were built in the last 3 years, all have acoustic tile to dampen sound.

Christine Cipriani researched children's rooms in libraries. She found two dominant topics: maker spaces and, to a lesser extent, digital media. Scandinavia was found to be cutting edge in children's rooms. At a library in Aarhus, Denmark, much of the children's material is interactive or physical; for example, an electronic floor map exists that allows kids to play educational games with their feet. The discussion on digital media centers on the question of how much technology should be available in children's rooms. The bigger issue involves the creation of a maker space, or a collaborative building or craft space, for children and teens. Typically, these spaces are equipped with technology of varying degrees of complexity (i.e., 3D printers, computers with design software programs, sewing machines, etc.) with the goal of encouraging collaboration, creativity, and comfort with science, math, and technology. The space can also be used for traditional arts, crafts, and other club activities or classes with a physical or "messy" aspect.

Jessica Yurkofsky discussed general library service trends. She highlighted expanded lending programs that include non-book items such as games, seeds, etc. Noted that in Arrowhead, WI bins are shared between libraries which hold kits for activities (e.g. sewing, music). Another example given of libraries meeting the needs of patrons was having a space for people who are taking online courses to gather and discuss. She noted some other innovations: a children's resale shop inside a library, a tech petting zoo, even abandoning the Dewey Decimal System. She noted that makerspaces for adults are also becoming more popular and that libraries are attempting to meet the needs of patrons through the creation of specialized spaces (quiet zones, collaborative rooms) and to build flexible space into the facility plan to accommodate changing usage patterns.

Barbara Scolnick discussed the future of libraries in our society. She drew on research conducted by the American Library Association and used the Wellesley Public Library as an example of a library that illustrates a responsiveness to community needs and to library trends. She said that successful libraries reflect the composition of their communities in the physical layout of the building as well as in the collection, services, and programs offered, some examples: as having directional signs, large meeting rooms that can be divided into smaller spaces, dedicated study room for an activity/age group that can be used by others too- such as a high school study space open to all patrons until the high school day is over and students come, allowing anonymity within. The Center for the Future of Libraries is a recently developed resource at the American Library Association.

Mr. Fay thanked the presenters for their hard work and asked other committee members to comment on the presentation: the library is the living room for the town, the architecture of the library can be a powerful means for the town to connect with the community by being a place that the public wants to be in, what is 'community' and what does the town want to create.

### **Report of the Public Land Study Group**

Tom Fay explained that a subcommittee had been formed to examine potential buildable lots owned by the Town of Wayland. Bill Steinberg (other members include: Jen Gorke, Betty Salzberg, and Thom White) mentioned that the committee members met with the town planner, the town surveyor, the public buildings director, and the conservation administrator and examined eight municipally owned sites in addition to the current library site at 5 Concord Road: Alpine Field, Orchard Road, Claypit Hill School, Paine Estate, 5 Concord Road, Wayland Town Center, DPW at the Middle School, Loker Recreation Area, Wayland High School. Together, they determined that three were viable (the former DPW site,

the current library site, and a new site in the town center development) because of infrastructure in existence or easily installed and a central location in town or located in a dense population area.

### **Timetable and Work for Committee Going Forward**

Aida Gennis, chair of the Board of Library Trustees, mentioned that the Committee's recommendation and report is due September 1, 2015. She suggested that more than one monthly meeting might be required to meet that target date. Mr. Fay said that he would send out a poll regarding additional meeting dates.

Aida reported that the results of the town-wide needs assessment will be presented by the UMass Donahue Institute at the June 17 trustees meeting at 8:00 a.m. and invited members to attend if interested.

Ms. Cipriani suggested that it would be helpful for the committee to visit the sites that the subcommittee is recommending as potential sites. Mr. Fay agreed and said that he would arrange it.

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, June 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the Raytheon Room of the Library.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Heller.

### Documents distributed:

Agenda for Meeting 5/28/15

Facility Data on Libraries in the Metro Boston Area for Communities 10,000-25,000 Population

Statistics on Libraries Visited and Neighboring Libraries

Town of Wayland Street Map with Property Addresses