

**Wayland Free Public Library
Library Planning Committee
Minutes of Meeting on June 5, 2017
Wayland Public Safety Building**

Present: Lynn Cavanaugh, Maureen Cavanaugh, Christine Cipriani, Tom Fay, Anne Heller, Sarah Hubbell, Lynne Lipcon, Tim Marsters, Sandy Raymond, Barbara Scolnick, Thom White, ex-officio: Aida Gennis, Ann Knight, Dana Mastroianni

Call to Order at 7:05 p.m. by Tom Fay.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2017 were approved unanimously (11-0-0). Later in the meeting, the minutes were amended, voted on, and approved unanimously.

Because it was determined that the meeting of May 9, 2017 ended without enough time for discussion about design elements related to the proposed new library building, minutes from that meeting were read aloud in their entirety to refresh our memories so we could pick up where we left off. Rather than get bogged down in the minutiae of the design, the goal was to address generalities and big picture issues.

Discussion commenced with comments from Tim Marsters and Thom White, both architects themselves. The architect's, Tappe's, job was to develop a design that could be submitted for the grant application to demonstrate that the library Program can be accommodated in a building at 195 Main Street. The image of the building in the application is not final. The task of this committee is to communicate our needs/desires/wants to Tappe and it is their job to work further on what the building would look like. We are paying them for their imagination; we need to give them the freedom to do that but also provide guidance.

Design issues:

- Children's area: Tower concept is fine but seems like it was just tacked on, doesn't seem coherent. Perhaps have it a one or one-and-a-half story tower or rotunda space like Wellesley. One or two members thought area was too small.
- Lobby/Rotunda: Feels only like a 'cross-roads' for the building, stitching together two parts. Agreement around the idea of not needing to replicate the space at 5 Concord Road. The original library building is not going anywhere and will continue to have a purpose in the life of the Town. Concern that gallery space is being shunted to inner reaches of the library.
- Entrance: Wide support for moving main doorway to northeast corner of building, perhaps with doors on both the north and east sides, feeding into one foyer. Makes it visible to people driving south on Route 27, more inviting, more accessible.
- Mezzanine: Like the design, although overhanging small study spaces were not embraced.

General thoughts:

- Community feedback includes both positive and negative comments about the modern design; residents want an architecturally significant building that will draw Wayland into the 21st century.
- Current design strikes many as grandiose and cold, too open. These attributes will make the project difficult for people to embrace. People do want the feel of warmth and coziness as

they enter, and these are feelings evoked in our current library building. They also want to feel welcomed and invited. The more positive energy the committee can convey around 5 Concord Road – its future, its intended use – the more inclined town residents will be to embrace the new library.

- Possibility of posting three/four design options on library or town website and allowing residents to vote for their preferences. (This idea did not gain traction with the committee.)

To generate ideas of building attributes the committee liked, the Tappe website was visited to see examples of previous work. Specifically, the library in Varina, VA was embraced. Among other things, the committee liked: its traditional building forms; use of windows extending from wall to roof which allow much light but without an industrial feel; wood ceilings; lower ceiling height which creates cozier feel. Also viewed pictures of the Honan-Allston BPL Branch. From this, the committee liked the slate (natural) exterior and the window design, allowing for a lot of light and its segmented/paned windows felt industrial. Tappe anticipates holding public sessions for input and review of iterations of work. Timing and number of these sessions is not yet determined and will be dependent on the outcome of the grant announcements in July.

Homework for June 12, 2017 meeting: Committee members urged to review pictures of either libraries visited by the committee or elsewhere, choose two or three pictures from each of two or three libraries and submit to Tom Fay. Tom will compile a slideshow to facilitate discussion.

Meeting concluded with discussion as to the future of the WLPC. Initial charge of committee was to get the grant application submitted. That step is accomplished, but still need to finalize design and bring project to a future Town Meeting. May need to restate the charge. Members in attendance willing to continue with the following comments: Scolnick is ambivalent; Heller is moving away; M. Cavanaugh added the caveat she already has numerous evening commitments. Suggestion made to expand the committee to include younger people, ideally with school age kids.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Hubbell.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Documents distributed:

Agenda

Minutes of May 9, 2017