

Wayland Free Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
Minutes of Meeting, Thursday, October 13, 2016
Raytheon Room, Wayland Free Public Library

Present: Library Director Ann Knight, Trustees Aida Gennis (Chair, presiding), Sally Cartwright, Anne Heller, Mark Peter Hughes, Lynne Lipcon, Suzanne Woodruff

Absent: None.

Call to Order: 8:14 a.m.

Visitors and Public Comment

Chris Blessen, Tappé Architects, and John Sayre-Scibona, Design Technique, attended the meeting for the Library Planning and Design Team. Library Planning Committee members in attendance included Lynne Cavanaugh, Christine Cipriani, Neil Gordon, Sandy Raymond, and Rachel Sideman-Kurtz. Former Trustee Nan Jahnke took the minutes. There were no other visitors and no public comment other than that noted below.

Minutes and Reports

No minutes were presented for vote at this meeting, and no reports were presented for review.

Library Planning and Design Study

Mrs. Gennis announced that the Trustees' Letter of Intent to file an application for a grant from the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) was sent to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners on October 5 and has been accepted by the state.

Mrs. Gennis reported that the Library and the Recreation Commission continue to work to settle the jurisdictional line demarcating their interests in the Town's parcel at 195 Main Street; agreement is expected within the week. The School Committee's interest in the site will also be finalized in that time. It is expected that the School Committee will seek jurisdiction over the current driveway to the Middle School and that there will be no objection to that request from either the Library or from Recreation. After the interests of the Library, Recreation, and Schools are settled, the three bodies will seek formal transfers of jurisdiction from the Board of Public Works and the Board of Selectmen, which currently control the parcel.

Mrs. Gennis announced that a Community Forum on the progress of the Library Planning and Design Study will be held on Wednesday, November 2, at 7 p.m., in the Senior Center. The Forum will include a review of the concept designs to date.

Mr. Blessen reported that site investigations confirm the presence of an old burn dump on the 195 Main Street parcel; the proposed Library building overlaps the burn area in a small section at the northeast corner of the proposed building, but this overlap should not pose any construction difficulty. Mr. Blessen said the soils on the proposed Library site are generally buildable, though there will need to be some soil improvements in the building area, even for slab on grade. Mr. Blessen then presented the most recent concept designs for the proposed Library at 195 Main Street.

Among the changes from the last iteration of the site and building plans presented are these:

- The integrated drive-up book drop operation has been abandoned as it posed many complications to both the interior and exterior plans (there will still be an outdoor book storage box where patrons can return their books after hours and without entering the Library).
- The landscaped island in the middle of the parking lot has been eliminated, to maximize space for Recreation purposes elsewhere on the parcel, and the back edge of the parking lot has been squared off.
- One or more second-story “bump-out” spaces are under consideration to increase floor space and bring more light into the Library without increasing the building’s footprint.
- The Circulation Desk in the Children’s Room has been moved to improve librarians’ sightlines to the Main Entrance door; the siting of the workroom area is still under consideration.
- The shape of the “Story Tower” in the Children’s Wing has been changed from circular to hexagonal, and is still under discussion.
- Seating areas have been enlarged somewhat to reflect modified stack counts.
- A more flexible interior design reflects the availability of rolling stack systems that would be eligible for partial reimbursement under an MPLCP grant.
- The wall to the meeting room in the Rotunda has been made more open.
- Some mechanical systems are now hidden in an interior “mechanicals loft” to avoid placement on the exterior of the building or on the roof.
- The main Circulation Desk has been moved closer to the Main Entrance.
- The Reference Desk, now located on the second floor, has been moved closer to the elevator and stairs, and the reference collection space has been downsized somewhat to reflect the migration of reference materials to online resources.
- A list of materials for the exterior of the building is now taking shape; it will likely incorporate a variety of textures and colors (limestone, fieldstone, wood, brick, metal, and terra cotta) to create a lively façade.

An interested, appreciative, and lively discussion ensued. Among the issues addressed were these:

- Location of the deliveries entrance. Participants suggested that routine deliveries not be made through the Main Entrance but through a separate exterior door from the staff area at the northeast end of the building.
- Book drop-off, book storage, and work area for the Friends’ semi-annual Book Sale. Mrs. Heller was disappointed that a separate Book Sale drop-off and work area had not been set aside in the plans but was gratified to learn that there would be space for storage and work in the basement.
- Acoustics. Mrs. Lipcon wondered if the height of the ceiling in the Children’s Story Tower (30 feet) would adversely affect acoustics, and several people spoke of the need to control sound transfer between the first and second floors in the atrium space.
- Expandability. Several participants praised the atrium design as an ingenious way to ensure future expansion on the site (a criterion encouraged by the MPLCP) without requiring that any acreage be left idle. If the Library later needs additional square footage, the atrium space could be floored over to capture an additional 5,000 square feet.
- Several participants wondered whether the Story Tower might include elevated reading spaces. Mr. Blessen said yes, so long as they were universally accessible.
- Mr. Gordon wondered whether food and beverage service could be co-located on site.

- Mrs. Knight noted that the Teen Area (on the second floor in the current plan) is larger than the area called for in the Library program. She explained that this adjustment was made to maximize the opportunity presented by the choice of a site near the Middle School.

Mr. Blessen explained that the current design for the proposed Library could undergo many changes if Wayland receives a state grant and chooses to go forward with construction. Though the site address and the budget for eligible expenses cannot change under state requirements, the footprint and square footage could be enlarged if necessary, and other changes could be made as well. Of course, major changes might incur significant additional design costs. Final design decisions would be up to the Trustees working with the architects who are chosen for any final project; they would also be subject to review by the Permanent Municipal Building Committee. Further comment on the design will be received in coming weeks during a meeting with staff on October 13 and from the public at the Community Forum on November 2.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair in Advance of the Meeting

Mrs. Gennis announced that Dana Mastroianni has accepted the Town's offer to become the next Director of the Wayland Free Public Library. She will begin her service on Monday, October 31, 2016.

The Meeting Was Adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Documents for This Meeting

- Agenda for Meeting, October 13, 2016
- Presentation materials from Tappé Architects

Next Meetings

- Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 8 a.m., Raytheon Room, Wayland Free Public Library
- Wednesday, November 2, 2016, 8 a.m., Raytheon Room, Wayland Free Public Library
- Wednesday, November 2, 2016, 7 p.m., Senior Center, Community Forum
- Tuesday, November 15, 2016, 7 p.m., Wayland High School Field House, Special Town Meeting
- Other meetings may be posted as votes on jurisdictional lines and land transfers are scheduled

Respectfully submitted by Nan Jahnke, a friend of the Wayland Free Public Library