



**Jones Library Equity, Justice, and Inclusion Subcommittee with:
Jones Library Building Committee (JLBC) & JLBC Design Subcommittee**

Thursday, January 26, 2023

YouTube Meeting recording of this Zoom:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQgZRLZWtqQ&list=PLcnmFtV6BPFNuN3KC0y364AXI_PNaTLn1

**4:30 PM
Minutes**

Present: Austin Sarat (Chair), Christine Gray-Mullen, George Hicks-Richards, Alex Lefebvre, Anika Lopes, Sean Mangano, Sharon Sharry

Others: Rachel Loeffler (Berkshire Design), Craig DiCarlo (OPM), Will Fernandez (Colliers), Josephine Penta (FAA), Tony Hsiao (FAA), Ginny Hamilton, Walter Lloyd, Farah Ameen, Sarah Draper, Lee Jennings

Absent: Paul Bockelman, Alex “Zander” Lopez

Glossary of Acronyms: CLT = Cross-Laminated Timber, FAA = Finegold Alexander Architects, JLBC = Jones Library Building Committee, OPM = Owner’s Project Manager (Colliers), PV = photo voltaic, SD = Schematic Design, VE = Value Engineering

I. Call to Order – Roll Call to check audio and video feed.

Sarat called the JLBC to order at 4:30 PM. Sound and video check for all panelists.

Gray-Mullen called the JLBC Design Subcommittee meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

Farah Ameen called the Jones Library Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee to order at 4:33 PM

II. Minutes to approve

A. JLBC minutes 01-05-2023 and 01-19-2023

01-05-2023 minutes. Motion to approve minutes made by Sharry. Seconded by Gray-Mullen
Roll call vote.

VOTED: 01-05-2023 minutes approved by Consensus vote.

01-19-2023 JLBC minutes. Motion to approve minutes made by Sharry. Seconded by Gray-Mullen.

Roll call vote.

VOTED: 01-19-2023 minutes approved by Consensus vote.

B. Design Subcommittee 08-30-2022 and Design Subcommittee minutes 01-19-2023

08-30-2022 Design Subcommittee minutes.

Motion to approve minutes made by Sharry. Seconded by Sarat.

Roll call vote.

VOTED: 08-30-2022 minutes approved by Consensus vote.

01-19-2023 Design Subcommittee minutes.

Motion to approve minutes made by Sharry. Seconded by Hicks-Richards.

Roll call vote.

Voted: 01-19-2023 minutes approved by Consensus vote.

III. Town Manager Update – None

IV. Finance Update – Mangano

A. Review and Approval of Invoices - None

V. Collier’s Project Leaders, Owner’s Project Manager – (DiCarlo; Anselone)

A. Project Updates [schedule; designs (Landscaping; Rest Rooms); budget]

DiCarlo shared screen and went over the timeline and a new line added for the Town Council action votes.

Sarat asked to reverse the order and start with the gender inclusive bathrooms.

DiCarlo mentioned the landscape architect who would like to be present for the presentations.

Farah Ameen asked for Ginny Hamilton to be let into the Panelist room.

Sharry added Hamilton to the panelist room.

Penta took over the screen sharing. Penta introduced the landscape architect from Berkshire Designs – Rachel Loeffler.

Loeffler shared screen and showed the existing aerial parcel view.

Loeffler showed street views and mentioned outdoor outlets and congregate spaces.

Loeffler reviewed the current property boundaries and the ways these spaces' function.

Presentation turned to the upgrades to the entries and the aesthetics of the newly refurbished front of the Jones Library.

Further amenities included capturing spaces that could host children's events.

The north side of the building was reviewed.

The planting overview was shared.

Slides showed depictions of the low plantings along pedestrian walkways.

Pedestrian traffic paths and defined spaces for outdoor seating were reviewed.

Parking plan was reviewed.

Loeffler asked for questions from the panelists.

JLBC members asked their questions of Loeffler.

Loeffler responded and noted that Berkshire Design would have to re-group with FAA to discuss the particulars about the dumpster and recycling situations.

More questions were asked about: rainwater collection/gardens, the existing oak trees, landscaping on the Strong Museum side of the library, and the height of the exterior retaining walls.

Loeffler responded.

Discussion between JLBC members, Jones Library Equity and Inclusion subcommittee members, and Loeffler turned to the discussion of the ADA accessibility on the north side of the building.

Loeffler and Penta would work together to do a rendering of the Garden Level entrance to share for a future meeting.

Hammock check-outs were debated by the JLBC members.

Children's outdoor (24' x 24') gathering space was discussed.

Suggestion that community members bring stones for the retaining wall construction.

Sarat invited public attendees to comment on the landscaping plan.

There was a comment/discussion of hard fencing around new areas to inhibit the encampment by unhoused populations.

Walkways on the north side of the building were further discussed as were guardrails and curb rails.

Questions about grading differences were made.

Loeffler referred to the survey sketches and tried to explain the new retaining wall heights.

Discussion also turned to the re-use of the mill stones.

Questions were asked about the addition of an awning to the building to protect individuals from rain and snow.

Penta mentioned that there would be a canopy at the main entrance.

Rachel Loeffler (Landscape Designer) was excused from the meeting.

DiCarlo presented the CLT update.

Penta joined the discussion and confirmed that everything has been aligning with what was shown last week. The cost estimates were correct.

Penta noted 25 – 35% range of wood in the new addition to the building.

There has been no change to the embodied carbon estimate.

Design Topic: Gender Inclusive Toilets

Penta shared screen for Hsiao to narrate the changes to the garden level bathroom design.

Options A, B, and C were reviewed for the group.

All three options meet accessibility requirements and codes.

Each option had different eventualities for the existing janitor's closet.

Privacy and security for each option were detailed and discussed.

Option C was the largest footprint for a bathroom.

Hsiao mentioned that Option A was perhaps the best compromise option.

FAA noted that there was a separate single-use restroom available elsewhere on this garden level.

Follow-up to ensure accessibility to stalls for people in powered wheelchairs.

Committee members asked questions about all three options.

Discussion of a family bathroom co-located in the shared gender-neutral bathroom.

Committee and subcommittee members expressed their preferences for each of the three bathroom options.

Further discussion of variance codes regarding gender-neutral bathrooms and plumbing codes.

Discussion turned to the stall types and how that might impact the footprint of the garden floor bathroom.

Open entry to the bathroom was debated.

Each JLBC member expressed their opinions.

Final bathroom decision would be made at next meeting.

Architects will go back to the drawing board and bring back a design that is a combination of B & C.

Semi-private doors were preferred.

Preferences of the JLBC members for Bathroom Design:

Option B – Sharry, Lefebvre (combo of B & C), Lopes, Sarat

Option C – Gray-Mullen, Hicks-Richards, Mangano, Lopes

Sarat asked if there could be a re-design of option B for the bathrooms.

A. Stefura Proposal – Not ready today
VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Design – None

B. Public Outreach – None

VII. Correspondence – None

VIII. Topics not anticipated 48 hours before the Meeting – None

IX. Public Comment – None

Sarat thanked public attendees for their attendance.

Sarat thanked Farah Ameen and the members of her subcommittee.

A question was read from the Zoom chat, but the question was discarded due to the fact that the bathroom design in the question had been voted down by the JLBC members.

X. Adjournment

Design Subcommittee was adjourned 6:11 PM.

Equity, Justice and Inclusion subcommittee was adjourned 6:12 PM.

JLBC was adjourned at 6:13 PM.

Link to online agenda for this meeting: <https://www.amherstma.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/15581>

Link to online packet for this meeting: <https://www.amherstma.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/4609>

Link to YouTube Channel recording of this meeting:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOgZRLZWtqO&list=PLcnmFtV6BPFNuN3KC0y364AXI_PNaTLnI

Respectfully submitted to Sharon Sharry and Christine Gray-Mullen on 1/30/2023.