

**Meeting of the Jones Library Design Subcommittee  
January 6, 2017, Goodwin Room**

Present: George Barnes (Colliers); Lee Edwards (Trustee); Sharon Sharry (Director); Tamson Ely (Trustee); Austin Sarat (Trustee); Kent Faerber (Design Committee); Lorin Starr (Design Committee); Matt Blumenfeld (FDA); John Kuhn (Kuhn, Riddle)

Also present: The general public

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- I. Public Comment:
  1. S. McKee read a statement regarding the Library's completed Massachusetts Historical Commission Notification Form.
  2. T. Johnson said people are now paying attention to the Library building project.
- II. Minutes: The construction grant application due date is January 26, 2017; this should be corrected in the last minutes.
  - **Motion:** To approve the minutes as amended. Motion by Lorin, second by Tamson. Vote: Unanimous.
- III. Once the construction grant application is submitted, the *Building Program* cannot change (i.e., general square footage; Library services; site). But throughout the course of the remainder of the project, with MBLC approval, there will be many changes to the finishes and furnishings. Any of the sketches that seem to be stark white or brown do not matter because there has been no discussion of finishes, nor landscaping. The community will have major input into landscaping.
- IV. The Trustees will bring two articles to Town Meeting in April:
  1. To allow the Trustees to submit the grant application to the MBLC;
  2. To approve the preliminary designs.
- V. The exterior of the building has not been designed; the interior designs will evolve throughout the next phase of this project.
- VI. If the Town Meeting vote fails, we will not see where we are on the grant list; the project would end. We are asking Town Meeting to allow us to apply for the grant.
- VII. Discussion of design changes since last meeting:
  1. The MBLC has said it's very important for staff to have natural light, so Technical Services has been moved. Also, Special Collections has been moved due to concerns about collection security, etc.
  2. It's important to note that the square footage has not changed.
  3. First Floor: The MBLC noted that the front stairs make the main hallway too small and create a bottleneck. The Adult Circulation and Ask Desks have been moved. The Ask Desk is a concierge desk. The book drop room is fire rated and there is now a place for strollers to "park." There will be no returning of books at the Adult Circulation Desk, but there will be customer service for the patrons. There has been a change in the New Materials area.
  4. The Children's Room materials will be separated by ages and the shelving changed. They eliminated the circular desk in the Children's Room because they are inefficient. The family restroom now opens into the main space. The "saw tooth" nooks will enable people to read to their children, overlooking the garden. Young adult books will be checked out at the Adult Circulation Desk.
  5. We will have to purchase very narrow RFID gates (materials security). This gate will enable us to know what item has not been checked out. First floor staff concerns centered on work flow. The automated materials system is noisy, requiring a wall to dampen sound. The social worker and artist in residence offices have been moved to the ground floor. The young adult room will be gorgeous but there was no way for the children's staff to get there easily, so there is a flow now with fewer footsteps.
  6. Second floor changes: The MBLC said there was no staff oversight, so the Amherst Room is at one end and public computers are at the other end. There will be a work study student at the computers and there will be a consultation desk in the center (with a reference librarian). The administrative offices are also there.

7. Offices have been moved so that staff can have natural light. There will be two person tables, and no couches except in the children's room.
  8. Discussion of location of adult computers.
  9. A couple of walls have been added in the adult reading room to make cozy reading spaces. There's only one elevator in the building, and it's in the center. The front door will be made handicapped accessible.
  10. Discussion of elevator half-stop.
  11. The MBLC concerns/problems are not negotiable, but they can be solved in a different way down the road.
- VIII. This is an exciting transformation of this Library back to the center of the Town the way it was in 1928. Four functions that the existing building cannot serve, but the new Library will, are:
1. Teens
  2. Special Collections
  3. Children and Families
  4. ESL
- IX. Not only will we be improving existing services, but we will also be adding new services. Also, the new building will be flexible.
- X. Discussion of the Woodbury Room:
1. The Woodbury Room will be on the first floor. In order to keep the Woodbury Room on the ground floor, it would be very expensive, as the existing structure will not support additional floors.
  2. All of the Woodbury Room AV equipment will be preserved and used. The Friends, when they agreed to restore the Woodbury Room, knew that this renovation was coming and they agreed that the Large Meeting Room was so awful that they wanted to renovate and create the Woodbury Room.
  3. The Friends' want to make sure we keep the Woodbury Room and Goodwin Room names.
- XI. Discussion of how to disseminate this in a clear way. There will be a substantial effort to educate the Town. It's important to note that there are things which we cannot do, there are improvements for some things, we will increase accessibility, and this building will return as a community gathering place. We are well positioned now to get the information about this project out to the public.
- XII. Thank you to our fabulous OPM, George Barnes!

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by Tina Swift