

Building Design Committee
April 8, 2010
4:00 pm

A meeting of the Library Building Design Committee was held on the above date in the Fred B Morgan Jr. Meeting Room, Town Hall. Members present were Chris Scott, Larry Mercier, Carl Watt, Ann Tyra, Dick Knight, Mort Fearey, and Michael Donaroma. Also present were Library Director, Felicia Cheney, Courtney Brady, and Margaret Serpa.

Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm.

Minutes of April 1, 2010, meeting were reviewed. M. Fearey moved to approve the minutes; A. Tyra seconded; motion carried unanimously.

F. Cheney distributed binders to committee members containing Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grant/construction information.

Regarding the agenda item concerning the annual town meeting, C. Scott raised his concern regarding the difficulty of the \$300K article passing on town floor and in the voting booth. He suggested that we be well prepared to answer questions regarding aspects of the article including but not limited to: 1) how was \$300K arrived at; 2) what is the \$300K for?; 3) why don't we use the money raised by the library foundation?; 4) why did we forgo the \$4.6 million grant?; 5) where will the library be located?; 6) how much was spent on the project to date?; 7) how much money has been raised through fundraising?; 8) what are the goals of this new committee and why is different than previous committees?

It was agreed that a library board trustee should briefly comment on the formation of the building design committee during committee reports at the beginning of the annual town meeting. During discussion of the article, M. Donaroma will assure the voters that the Carnegie will not be given up, and that it is an important part of historic downtown. He may also speak to the economic climate and how that has affected the fundraising goals. A. Tyra and F. Cheney will answer questions as to the details of the forgone grant and the new grant round. They will also answer questions regarding progress to date. M. Fearey and L. Mercier will address any concerns raised that can be appropriately addressed as members of the town finance advisory committee. As chairperson, C. Scott will speak to the aims of the committee, but he should not be expected to answer questions concerning the history of the library project. The goal is for this building design committee to present a united front at town meeting and to reassure the town voters that this committee is intent on addressing the expansion needs of the library.

A. Tyra suggested a short survey for town voters at town meeting asking for opinions on location of the library. Other committee members opposed this suggestion.

The mission of the committee was then discussed. M. Donaroma expressed concern that we not miss the opportunity for state grant money, and that this committee will need to move quickly. The project has moved from being a library-town project to a town-library project. A. Tyra informed the committee that another state grant opportunity would likely not be available for until 2020.

The committee should focus on services needs, site requirements, and funding. A. Tyra and F. Cheney will provide a prioritized list of current and future library needs. Later meetings will address location and space issues.

The big question is what to do first. After it is determined whether or not this committee will be funded, the group will discuss the action plan. M. Fearey stressed the need to have an architect involved in the decision making. Some discussion of RFPs ensued.

If the voters pass the \$300K article, the committee will next meet on April 26, 2010, 8:30 am at the library. It was agreed that committee meetings would be held every Monday, 8:30 am, at the library. The consensus was that regular committee meetings should take no longer than one hour.

Rosemary Waltos from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners can come to a committee meeting on the morning of May 20, 2010. F. Cheney will coordinate with Ms. Waltos and will inform committee members accordingly. This would be an additional meeting to the regular Monday meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Approved:

Felicia Cheney

Chris Scott, Chairman