



MEETING MINUTES

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Date: November 3rd, 2021
Location: Baldwin Public Library
300 W. Merrill St.
Birmingham, MI 48009

MEETING MINUTES ARE RECORDED IN BLUE

Attendees:

Melissa Mark	Board President	BPL Building Committee
Frank Pisano	Board Vice President	BPL Building Committee
Jim Suhay	Board Member	BPL Building Committee
Rebekah Craft	Library Director	Baldwin Public Library
Jaclyn Miller	Assistant Director	Baldwin Public Library
Kristen Tait	Circulation Director	Baldwin Public Library
Steven Schneemann	Principal Architect	Merritt Cieslak Design
Ron Cieslak	Principal Architect	Merritt Cieslak Design
Dianne Schurg	Interior Designer	Merritt Cieslak Design

3 members of the public

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Review Floor Plans w/ Program Options as selected October 27
 - The following items were discussed regarding the Main Level/ Street Level Proposed Plan:
 - Steve noted that the idea was for the ramp to have interactive elements and art
 - Rebekah explained that the Teen librarian said that she was not in favor of the idea of moving the teen area to the Claudia Ireland room unless there was a glass door and some modifications to things such as new tables and chairs. Rebekah suggested that the existing furniture could be repurposed elsewhere.
 - Jim was concerned with the millwork at the Friends area- he was not a fan of the idea of fixed furniture. Missy said that she was okay with fixed furniture since it was at half-height. Steve suggested that the lower portion could be on casters.

- Jim did not like how far out the Cafe area came into the collaborative space and felt like it cut off the space- Steve suggested that this could be reconfigured and Ron noted that if the cafe were to be self-serve it would require even less space. It was also noted that a variety of furniture types in the cafe would be ideal to accommodate all patrons.

- Jim asked about the views from the ramp to the cafe. Steve explained that the idea was to keep it as open as possible.

- Steve also noted that it might be an ideal time for the library to reach out to local coffee shops and see if there might be any interest in another location at the library. Jim noted that it would be good to know if they even had any options. It was also noted that if they weren't planning to charge rent they would be concerned with competition with local shops. Ron said that if they didn't have a staffed cafe then the library would have more flexibility with renting out the collaborative space as a meeting room.

-The next topic covered was the 3-stop elevator. The Building Committee determined that the amount of space required to create a hallway from the elevator to the main corridor from the lower level meeting rooms took too much space away from the room, and felt that incorporating a 2-stop elevator instead would be adequate.

-Steve explained that the original building and the entrance wall at the Birkerts did not align, reorienting the view at the circulation area intentionally to create visual access to the grand hall.

-Jim suggested creating 2 study rooms and 1 group study and Steve explained that this would require the rooms to bump out further in order to give more space to the rooms. Rebekah said that these rooms would make good tutor rooms. Kristen also noted that if there were less people in the rooms- it would maintain a quieter sound level.

- For the Teen Scene relocation, Rebekah said she would talk to the staff about a satellite staff desk location for visual security.

- Rebekah asked where the new Hot Picks new location was asked about where this would go. MCD said that they felt that putting it adjacent to the new Circ desk would be an ideal location. Steve also suggested repurposing the existing shelving and staff noted that they were too tall to utilize the upper shelves.

- Missy asked where the holds were going to be relocated and Steve explained that the idea was to incorporate double sided cubbies behind the new circ desk for holds. Ron also suggested a low barrier or wall behind the circ desk to separate the space from the patrons at the hold shelves.

-It was also noted that there would be a low open half wall between the stairs and large print- potentially glass balustrades.

- Steve also suggested that the teen scene book stack could be put back where it had been cut back at the new book sorting. Kristen requested a glass sliding door at the new book sorting to create ease of access for staff.

- Jaclyn requested the elevator be well-insulated to detract from noise carrying into the meeting rooms.

- Rebekah was concerned with the idea of children climbing on the guardrail of the ramp. Steve suggested raising several inches higher than the minimum requirement to decrease the chances of this happening. It was also requested that

the ramp be able to accommodate a double wide stroller.

- Rebekah commented that the location of the street level toilet room was ideal because of its proximity to Shain Park.

- Missy and Jim asked about the roofline for the addition where it expands outside of the curve. Jim was concerned it would look like a 4th building. Steve mentioned that the idea was to create a thin profile roofline.

- Missy asked about the HVAC system in the expansion area, Steve said the idea was to incorporate the new system in creative locations- similar to the Birkerts addition- and he also noted that MCD was taking a look at utilizing radiant heating inside and outside. Missy asked whether it was time to consider sun heating up the expansion area and Steve said that we should consider it now and determine what types of systems to consider such as brise soleil on the facade to mitigate overheating along the glass wall.

-Frank suggested sun shades at the glass and recess it above, and having it on an automatic system to come down. He also suggested film on the glass and Steve said that MCD could take a look at "fritted glass" as well. Ron noted that it was best to look at which options would integrate best with the architecture so that it did not appear as an afterthought.

- Kristen asked whether the wall at the Friends area would be a solid full height wall and Steve said that the idea was that it would give privacy to circulation staff and to provide more wall space for Friends book display.

-Jim requested that the ceiling at the existing circulation area be raised as much as possible to open it up visually.

-Missy asked whether not using the granite pavers at the plaza might reduce the cost. Steve explained that while it would, that there were ways to utilize the pavers in order to create a connection with Shain Park without only using the granite pavers- they could be integrated with other materials and used to highlight spaces. Steve noted that there was a lot of value in making the exterior plaza feel like an expansion of Shain Park.

- There was also a question as to whether it was determined if there was any way to get Merrill as a one way. Rebekah explained that The Community House would prefer to close off Merrill completely but that the Planning Director did not see this as a potential change in the next several years.

- Jaclyn asked about what flooring materials were being considered for the cafe area. She requested that it be slip resistant. Steve explained that any materials specified would be mindful of this concern.

- The next topic covered was the flooring at the vestibule, Steve suggested a pedigrd system and noted that it would need to be cleaned regularly.

- Missy asked when the Building Committee could expect a revised Cost Model, and Steve said that an updated one would be provided at an upcoming meeting. Jim was concerned about the cost comparison to what was previously proposed and Steve explained that the value of the additional space and the requirements of the enclosed ramp would drive the need for the additional expansion area.

- The next portion of the meeting was open for Public Comments:

- The first guest from the public was John Gardner who asked whether a site analysis had been done for the project and Steve had explained that it was in an earlier meeting with diagrammatic design proposals. John Gardner also asked whether the skylight addressed the previously proposed

concept of opening up the views to the 1927 building facade. Steve explained that it was considered and that this would be looked at in 3D models.

- The next guest from the public was Robert Ziegelman who explained that the previous architectural proposal was to open a skylight from the overhang at the street all the way to the facade, and he asked whether this was considered in the design process. Steve explained that while this had been considered, the concept to open up the view from within so that from street level coming up the grand staircase that the patrons would get an experiential view of the original building.

-The final guest from the public was David Bloom who asked about the elevations at the cafe and how that worked with the café. Steve explained that the cafe was at street level. David also asked whether it was considered to make the South wall operable to open up to the plaza as well as the west wall, and Steve explained that there were concerns with HVAC maintaining a comfortable state and elements/ critters/ getting into the library and causing issues for patrons and library staff. He noted that opening the expanse of the East wall was sufficient for the cafe. David Bloom then asked whether the library planned to charge rent for the cafe and suggested that part of the profits could go to the library. He also asked whether it could be designed to be self-serve in the case that there were no vendors interested. Steve explained that the idea was to make it flexible to accommodate either outcome.

-The next question from David Bloom was whether the limestone bands at the Birkets building were considered with the facade of the addition and said that he felt it was important to take the opportunity to pay homage to the Birkerts building by considering this. Steve said that he agreed and that this was certainly being considered with the design proposal.

David also asked if there could be shades at the meeting room to make it more multi-functional (i.e. room darkening for presentations and movies) and suggested that the shades could come up from the floor. Steve said that while this was an option it may not be a priority for the library.

- The final comments from David Bloom were regarding the Claudia Ireland room and the Circulation desk. For the Claudia Ireland room he was concerned that too much noise from teens would transfer into the grand hall. For the Circulation desk he asked whether Steve had considered that moving the circulation desk away from the circulation area might be problematic. Steve explained that relocating the teens to the Claudia Ireland room could be done with surveillance of staff, and that glass doors could be implemented to reduce noise levels. For the circulation desk Steve noted that it was by request of the circulation staff that it be relocated to a more prominent area closer to the new entrance and that there was no concern about work flow between spaces. Kirsten added that having a second circulation desk would only cause more problems- and that relocating it was a better move to address concerns of proximity to entrance.

2. Review Next Steps

- 3D Design
 - MCD will provide exterior 3D renderings at the upcoming meeting- incorporating all changes discussed in the meeting.
- Plaza + Lightning Design
 - Steve mentioned that the partnership with Grissim Metz Andriese and Illuminart would help to provide more informed decisions for the library addition.

- Develop Estimate of Probable Costs
 - Steve noted that an upcoming meeting was schedule with Frank Rewold and Sons to incorporate all changes discussed to create a revised Estimate of Probable Costs.
3. Next Building Committee meeting scheduled for November 17, 2021 4:00PM

*Note: These minutes represent the best efforts of **Merritt Cieslak Design** to record discussions and decisions at this meeting. Please report any errors or omissions to the author upon review.*