



## **MEETING MINUTES**

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Date: November 17TH, 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
Elizabeth Phou	Teen Librarian	Baldwin Public Library
H Jennings	Head of Adult Services	Baldwin Public Library
Stephanie Klimmek	Head of Youth Services	Baldwin Public Library

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### 1. Review Latest Floor Plans

- The following items were discussed regarding the revisions to the design of the Main Level/ Street Level Proposed Plans:
  - Steve noted that the book drop would be at the new entrance and that a portion of the existing glass panels would remain and a new glass panel would be installed to create visual access to the book drop conveyor.
  - Steve noted that the addition's exterior materials are majority glass/ and noted that the East wall is operable and opens up 75%.
  - The cafe counter has been shown smaller per Jim's request at the previous meeting in order to minimize the footprint and make the collaborative space more open.

-Steve noted that the orientation of the Family Toilet Room was changed to be more narrow in order to increase visual access from the exterior plaza into the collaborative space.

- Steve explained that he contacted the book sorting company, Design Industry, and discussed the requirements for the relocation of the book sorting room and equipment. He noted that the incline of the conveyor would need to be at a 55-degree angle in order to bring materials 7' up to the book sorting room. Steve also explained that he met with the mechanical consultant and discussed the possibility of storing all mechanical units for the expansion in the storage room for the lower level meeting rooms, adjacent to the book sorting equipment. He also noted that because the storage room was currently used for meeting room chair storage that the majority of the chairs would be displaced and would need to be stored elsewhere. Rebekah said that she thought this was fine and that the majority of the time the chairs were not put away. Steve also explained that the mechanical ductwork system would go beneath the slab for the expansion. Kristen and Frank asked whether the new system could be tied into the existing, and Steve explained that it would be beneficial to have them connected, but that the location was ideal to store the mechanical units.

- Jim asked about how wide the nanawall at the cafe opened up and was concerned with the possibility of birds, insects, weather and debris coming into the cafe and Steve agreed that while it was a legitimate concern, he also explained that the majority of the time it could easily be closed off and that the nanawall system could be partially opened in order to mitigate the probability of this occurring. Jim was also concerned about the cost increase for HVAC with having the cafe/ collaboration area open- Steve said that while it would require more while it was open- it would only be opened for occasions.

-The next topic covered was the glass wall separating the after-hours area from the rest of the library. Steve explained that in the updated plan it was being relocated to the top of the stairs in order to close off the space without visually interrupting the openness of the cafe area. Additionally, it would minimize the need for a full height wall to stack the panels on along the ramp. He also noted that because the ramp wall was lower- there was some concern with patrons climbing over the wall and being able to access the library. He said if the glass stack remained at the entrance that it wouldn't fully close off the space. Steve also mentioned that the side door at the vestibule would no longer be required. Jim asked if it closed off access to the circulation desk and Steve said that it does. Jaclyn asked whether the 2 stop elevator could be closed off and Steve said that it could be shut off for specific events. Melissa asked about the cost difference between the 2 locations of the glass stack system and Steve said that the new location required a longer span which would cost more. He said MCD would look into the cost difference.

- Frank asked about the acoustics of the addition and whether the sound would carry to the rest of the library with all the hard surfaces and the space being more open. Steve said that while it would, MCD planned to incorporate sound absorption applications to the ceiling and other areas to minimize the sound levels. Additionally, he noted that the mechanical system would create white noise that would also help to reduce this issue.

- The new circulation desk will accommodate a 2-person service and the new hold storage cubbies behind the circulation desk provide more storage than the existing hold shelves.

-Steve explained the proposed skylight is approximately 14' x 40', has a glass structure, and is flush with the original facade of the 1927 building. Jim mentioned that the previous architects proposed a North/South skylight and asked why this was not being proposed. Steve explained that the location was based off of the

focus of opening up the roof along the facade and noted that it was also cost driven. Steve also added that it would eliminate the need for two of the existing columns. Jim asked about the material of the structure of the skylight as well as whether or not it was sloped and Steve said that MCD was proposing that it be glass and that it would be sloped. There was a question about whether there were any concerns about snow loads on the skylight and Steve explained that because the glass has a lower insulation level than a roof would so the snow would melt and clear away faster. Jaclyn mentioned that there was concern about the slate tiles from the original building roof falling onto the skylight, she also noted that the pitch sloped in the opposite direction of the skylight. Steve said that MCD would look into this, but that any skylight specified should be able to withstand large blows. He also suggested a mesh net along the roofline that would catch the slate so that it does not fall onto the skylight.

- The next topic covered was the architectural ceiling feature at the new study rooms. Steve explained that because there wasn't a lot of height variance available that this would depend on lighting to create interest. He also discussed the size of the study rooms and stated that they would be ideal for individual or tutoring spaces. Jim asked why the study rooms did not extend more to the North and Steve explained that MCD did not want to crowd the colonnade and the staircase and Jim said that was fine. Kristen asked about ventilation for the new study rooms and Steve said that they would have their own supply and return.

- Rebekah explained that she reached out to the teen librarian and that relocating the teen space to the Claudia Ireland room was no longer an option. She said that instead the staff was planning to relocate to the Northwest corner of the adult reading area in the Birkerts building. Elizabeth noted that it would be ideal to have big tables for group study, lots of power supply, and a relative level of privacy. She also added that having study rooms specifically for teens would be useful. It was suggested that new study rooms could be added to the Claudia Ireland room so that the existing ones could be reallocated for the teen area. Rebekah explained that the library may need to relocate some stacks and shelves for the adult reading collection- however that this could be relocated to the Grand Hall since the large print collection was being relocated.

- Kristen asked where the Hot Picks shelving would be relocated- Steve and Dianne said that they were still looking into a way to seamlessly reintroduce this at the new entrance below the skylight without distracting from the original facade.

## 2. Review Exterior 3D Design

- The next portion of the meeting was a presentation and discussion of the five exterior renderings:
  - Steve began presenting the 3D renderings and discussing the overall aesthetic as well as materials proposed. He also noted that the proportions were based off the LZG addition and that the color of the trim, roofline and glass tint were related to the Birkerts addition.
  - Jim asked if the Baldwin Public library signage on the curve of the Birkerts building be included in the future renderings and Steve said that it would be. Steve also noted that additional signage would likely be added to augment the existing signage.
  - Steve noted that sculptural artwork was shown above the vestibule in the renderings and that MCD was proposing that this could either be a fixed or seasonal installation and that accent lighting could be provided for this space.
  - Steve explained that light colored slender concrete walls were being proposed with a smooth architectural finish for the ramp wall.

- Jim expressed concern that the new entrance looked like a fourth building, and said he felt that it should look more similar to the Youth Room addition. The library staff and Frank commented that they disagreed, and felt that it was a seamless transition between the two existing buildings. Steve also commented that the intention was to utilize aspects of the existing architecture to create visual connection, while providing a distinct new entrance point. There was a discussion about the finishes of the addition and whether they should more closely match the LZG building; Jim commented that he felt that they should be more complementary.

- Jim had a question about the glass and whether shades were considered. Steve said that while shades were being considered, other options such as fritted glass were also being considered. Steve also noted that whatever option selected would be reflected and considered in the design process and included in the estimate of probable costs. Kristen asked if glass tinting would provide more shade and reduce heat gain, and Steve said it would, but that it would not be a big difference. Rebekah commented that the glass tinting in the Birkerts addition and the Youth Room addition is different.

-Melissa asked about the artwork shown above the ramp and Steve explained that it was currently on the backside of the spandrel glass on the back wall of the existing toilet rooms. He said that this provided a potential exhibit space.

- There was a question about the existing columns under the curve and whether those would remain and Steve said that they would have to stay but that MCD was proposing that the limestone bands be removed to reduce the physical and visual space taken up by the columns. He also mentioned that the columns would need to be extended down anyway, because they were currently embedded in the stair that was being demolished.

- Frank asked whether there were any concerns with the vending/cafe equipment being too tall/unsightly and Steve explained that MCD was proposing to keep all cafe equipment low.

-Melissa asked whether the Glen Michaels artwork would be visible from the new entrance and Steve explained that since it was remaining in the same location that it would only be seen from the main level at the stair.

- Steve explained that the bench at the LZG building was being wrapped around along the plaza, but that MCD was proposing that this would be floated and that lighting would be installed at the underside.

- The Marshall Frederick Statue in the existing planter was discussed and it was determined that Rebekah would check to see if this could be relocated to the West side of the new entrance. Kristen also suggested that this could be relocated to its original location outside the youth room. Rebekah said that she would let Steve know in the next few days whether they wanted this to remain in the plaza as an accent. Additionally, it was noted that the flagpole was a donation and that it would need to remain at the plaza.

- Melissa wanted to know if there would be a walkthrough video. Steve said that MCD was not planning on it, however that MCD would look into including one.

### 3. Review Exterior 3D Design

- Interior 3D
  - MCD will provide exterior 3D renderings at the upcoming meeting- incorporating all changes discussed in the meeting as well as proposed finishes and furniture and renderings of the interior spaces.

- Plaza + Lightning Design
    - Steve mentioned that Grissim Metz Andriese and Illuminart were working on plazas and lighting design and that all proposed design concepts would be included in the upcoming meetings.
  - Develop Estimate of Probable Costs
    - Steve noted that Frank Rewold and Sons was revising the Estimate of Probable Costs and that changes from the meeting would be included and that the data would be provided at the upcoming meeting.
4. Next Building Committee meeting scheduled for December 1, 2021 4:00PM
- Rebekah will get in contact with MCD in the upcoming weeks to determine whether the next meeting will be held virtually or in person.
  - Jim requested that an additional meeting take place between the December 15th meeting and the January 12th meeting- preferably between Christmas and New Years- and Rebekah said that this could be determined closer to that time.

*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.*