
November 2022 Building Committee Report

The Baldwin Public Library Board's Building Committee met on Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Delos Board Room. Present were Jim Suhay, Melissa Mark, Rebekah Craft, Jaclyn Miller, and two members of the public.

The Committee discussed the proposed café in the Phase 3 renovation. They reviewed the memo from Planning Board member Janelle Boyce, discussed how the space will be used and who it will benefit, and discussed the merits of previous designs.

- We believe the target population for this space is students and professionals that use the Grand Hall and would benefit from having easy access to refreshments
- Teens may prefer this new area as it is more set off from the present teen area
- Shain Park visitors could use the potential bathroom in this area HOWEVER we want to give primary support to BPL users and want to avoid the overuse of other users
- Do not believe a gate is needed at the top of the stairs to block the circulation desk entrance for potential early meeting users if no bathroom is installed as we believe adults will go to the meeting and bathroom only - if users stay in restricted areas, librarians can inform them of 9:30 opening for rest of library
- There are not many coffee shops on our side of Birmingham and instead of walking outside in inclement weather, it is an added benefit to have vending machines in this space
- We have advertised this space as a "cafe area" for at least 3 years so the cafe is the highlight in this new space. We have not advertised this space as "an added bathroom"
- Perhaps we can identify this space as "multi-use" rather than "cafe"
- We already spent major dollars in Phase 2 for the "Youth Services/Children" area including a children's separate room - Grams Room - for stories and crafts - with easy access to a bathroom on the same level steps away so we feel adults should get revamped space
- Since the bathroom might be loud and odor-causing, positioning the entrance east towards the outside is better and roomier than south and right next to vending
- Having a food counter with sink and under-sink refrigerator against the ramp without a curve-out area still provides "cafe" benefits if vending machine(s) are added next to the counter area - and repositioning the tables can still provide easy walk-through access

The Committee would like the architects to develop two different renderings that show alternative café options.

- **Option 1.** A cafe with no restroom. This would be in the corner where the restroom is currently situated. It would be larger than its present footprint and should include a sink, under counter fridge, built in trash can, counter, tabletop coffee machine, and two full size vending machines (one for snacks, one for drinks). If space does not permit two, then a half/half vending machine should be installed.
- **Option 2.** A café and restroom modification of the original cafe design. Keep the bathroom in its current location but move the restroom door facing east towards the Nanawall with the door opening inward and make the restroom larger if space permits. Remove the hook part of the existing cafe counter and then add a half/half vending machine next to the counter. The vending machine should not be higher than the wall of the ramp. If two machines can be added, then the committee would prefer two machines.

Resident David Bloom commented that the restroom in the cafe would be needed most for before hours and after hours use, and agreed that the restroom door should not face outwards. He suggested looking into gourmet vending options and adding a third stop to the lobby elevator so that it opens in the lower level, too.

Resident Janelle Boyce commented that she emailed Craft an example of an upscale vending machine and then Craft shared it with the group.

The next meeting of the Building Committee will take place on Thursday, November 10 at 3:00 p.m. The Committee will discuss interview questions for the Construction Manager RFP.