

Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

December 2, 2021 Minutes – **DRAFT**

Meeting called to order at 10:30am by Earl Thompson

Roll call attendance: Earl Thompson-aye; Tracy Furlong-aye; Maria Rector-aye. Also present: Jenna Diedrich, Craig Albaugh and Rachel Lenstra. Charles Holmes excused.

Public Comments

None

August 6, 2021 Minutes

Furlong moved to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2021 Building & Grounds Committee meeting. Rector seconded. Roll call vote: Furlong-aye; Rector-aye; Thompson-aye.

Discussion of Current Building Projects

Discussion was had about whether Thompson could bid exterior repair projects. Thompson said he was fine with either bidding or not bidding but would hate to see the library have to overpay for work. No conclusion was reached.

It was decided that Diedrich and Thompson will work on a bid package for the exterior repairs to present to the full board at the January meeting.

Albaugh noted that Mike Harris should have a proposal for Diedrich on the egress window in the children's room before Christmas.

Discussion was had about the radiator in the all-gender restroom. If the tune-up from D&D did not solve the problem, Thompson will reach out to them.

Discussion of Possible Renovation

Thompson opened the discussion by stating that his goal was to present a precise recommendation to the board regarding renovations/expansion so that the full board does not end up doing detailed committee work.

Discussion was had about the possibility of moving the Galena Primary School (GPS) building. Albaugh felt it was budgetarily out of reach. Diedrich said she felt the library could use a space of about 12,000 to 15,000 sq ft, so the library would only need a fraction of the total GPS space. Diedrich has talked to superintendent Tim Vincent about the timeline. Any move of this sort would not be feasible until at least 2024. Discussion was had about parking at the current library and possibly adding it to the front of the property on Bench. However, this would not solve issues with the need for programming/meeting space. Albaugh cited utility costs at GPS as an issue. Thompson noted there were ways to mitigate those costs. The idea of using the current library as all historical room space was also brought up. Diedrich will confer with Vincent to see if moving the library is even an option, given the school district's plans.

Furlong asked Diedrich to present her views on Baranski's plans. Diedrich said any plan that puts collections in the same space as program/meeting space is not workable because it bars access to collections during programming and meetings. Albaugh noted an idea he had to move the teen area downstairs. He expressed being upset at the idea of cutting the historical room in half. Discussion moved

back to Diedrich's concerns with Baranski's ideas. She said a 90 seat programming space is not feasible because the fire code for the first floor only allows us 86 people. Diedrich said the only part of Baranski's plan she could support is cutting the historical room in half because it creates dedicated program/meeting space that does not house collections, but the room could still be used by researchers in the historical room. Discussion was had about scheduling use of the meeting space ahead of time.

Thompson commented that the 90 seat space was requested by a specific board member and wasn't a recommendation from Baranski. Thompson agreed that collections in meeting space was not feasible. Discussion was had about a DVD dispenser to condense DVD storage, but Diedrich said she spoke with other libraries and those do not work well. Thompson said he did not want to totally abandon the idea of a larger meeting room in the library without due consideration to all factors.

Albaugh suggested revisiting the proposed plan from 1992 and getting a PUD from the City for an addition on the back of the building. Parking considerations were brought up. It was mentioned that that would cost a lot of money for not much gained space. Thompson said he was hearing that there was not a realistic way to add a meeting room for 25 plus people in the current building. Lenstra and Diedrich agreed.

Rector brought up the idea of purchasing the building at 225 Magazine Street. Staffing concerns were discussed, with the need to add staff members so two staff were always in each building. It was proposed that the building could function solely as storage space or as storage and meeting space only. Albaugh said he was told by the current owners that they may be interested in selling in two years. Albaugh and Diedrich will call the current owners to discuss the possibility further.

It was agreed that, since the committee has no actionable items to bring to the full board, the full board did not need to discuss these ideas yet.

Items for Next Agenda

Bid package for exterior work and any additional information on possible expansion or renovations.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:45am.