

Great Neck Library  
**Main Building Committee**  
Wednesday, April 22, 2020  
Via WebEx

**Board Members:**

Scott Sontag, Chair (SS)  
Weihua Yan, Chair (WY)  
Rebecca Miller (RM)  
Liman Mimi Hu (MH)

**Library Professionals:**

Tracy Van Dyne (TV)  
Cindy Simeiti (CS)  
Garry Hordoyski (GH)  
Charles Wohlgemuth (CW)

**Public Members:**

Marietta DiCamillo (MD)  
Alice Merwin (AM)  
Marianna Wohlgemuth (MW)

**Invited Guest:**

John Aluotto, Renaissance Web Solutions

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Main Building Committee was called to order by SS at 7:01 PM.

**Follow up on Action Items**

**Tracy Van Dyne**

1. Placing hiring of Renaissance Web Solutions for the library's website redesign on the next BoT agenda. **DONE. Item was approved at the 3/24/24 BoT meeting. John Aluotto from Renaissance has joined tonight's meeting to go over the layout and color samples for the website design.**
2. Status of Landscaping – **ONGOING. Greg Marett, Bayview Landscaping, is still awaiting permit. Communication with the Town of N. Hempstead is now limited due to the closures from the pandemic. TV will continue to periodically touch base with Greg for updates.**

**Renaissance Web Solutions**

John Aluotto, CEO & Lead Developer of Renaissance Web Solutions, presented a sample of the proposed website homepage. He stated that the color palette used in the design is based on feedback he received from Tracy Van Dyne and Cindy Simeiti. Mr. Aluotto indicated that the sample is for everyone to review and share their thoughts on the layout and colors used.

SS said that he was hoping that the color scheme and Great Neck Library logo could be updated. Mr. Aluotto responded that the logo could absolutely be redesigned if that is what the committee desires. RM opined that the red color used is a little soft. She wishes there was more brilliance and pop to it. RM continued that the main issue she has is that there is a lot of white space on the page before you actually start seeing content. MW said she feels it is too similar to the existing site. MD agreed and added that it is very clinical looking. WY questioned the choice of image next to the upcoming events list. Mr. Aluotto indicated that it will be a slideshow and reminded the committee that the purpose of this sample page is to review the layout and colors. He reiterated that all current images are just placeholders.

SS said he believes that the logo takes up too much space on the top. He referenced Manhasset Public Library's site as the top of their page only includes the library's name. MH suggested looking at the NYC Public Library site because their logo is side by side with the library name. She would like the Great Neck Library name to be more eye catching. RM concurred and recommended the logo block be broken apart to have the name of the library be more prominent. Mr. Aluotto agreed to move the library name next to the logo instead of under it and make it more horizontal but advised against making too many dramatic changes.

WY said that he would like to surface more items in the top bar to eliminate a lot of the white space. Mr. Aluotto acknowledged his concern but said that white space is not so negative because it is easier visually. He once again reminded the committee that this page is in its infancy stage and can be changed as many times as is needed.

RM questioned the proximity of the "Search the Catalog" and "How do I?" sections. She feels that they should either be combined or placed separately on the site to not confuse the patrons. WY directed the committee to the Queens Public Library's website. He likes its layout and the way their name and logo is displayed. The committee all agreed that the Queens layout works nicely.

SS brought the focus to the bar with the six buttons in the middle of the page. RM thinks that the logos of Kanopy, Hoopla and others are too big and would like to see them brought down in size. She added that the top image and list are too tall. RM referenced the way that Manhasset's website highlights their library services and the size of their icons. MH asked why the "Museum Passes" and "Local History" icons are separated instead of including it on the same panel. She concurred with RM that the services the library provides should be better highlighted. Mr. Aluotto said that it is up to the committee to decide how they would like the flow of information to be placed on the website. He indicated that all the buttons can be changed and more can be added.

SS asked Mr. Aluotto how he thinks we should move forward. Mr. Aluotto asked the committee to confirm that they would like the color palette changed. If so, the next step to take is to rework the color and the triangle logo. Mr. Aluotto said he will send TV a palette of colors to share with the committee. He stressed that he will change the design as many times as is needed until they get it right.

MD noted that this is a great start and said that it is a vast improvement from the current site. The entire committee echoed this sentiment.

Mr. Aluotto questioned if the timeline for the website launch is still 8 to 12 weeks. The committee agreed that with the current situation this timeline will have to be reviewed on a continuous basis.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by Gina Chase

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**Action Items**

**Tracy Van Dyne**

1. Share palette of colors sent to her by John Aluotto with the committee.