

Great Neck Library
Main Building Committee
Wednesday, May 20, 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 Simeti (CS)
Garry Hordoyski (GH)
Charles Wohlgemuth (CW)

Public Members:

Marietta DiCamillo (MD) (absent with notice)
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 7:06 PM.

Follow up on Action Items

Tracy Van Dyne

1. Share palette of colors sent to her by John Aluotto with the committee. **ONGOING. John is present at tonight's meeting and will discuss website colors with the committee.**

Punch List-HVAC

TV announced that there is no update on this item and that it remains with library counsel.

Landscaping

TV reported that they are still awaiting the building permit which is now delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Renaissance Web Solutions

TV reported that based on the discussion at the last meeting, John made many changes to the look of the site. She met with Cindy and the Department Heads to review their pages and make recommended changes. TV said this was all sent over to John who implemented many of them.

John said that he took everyone's suggestions into account and made several changes to the site. He noted that the same colors remain but that he brightened them to stand out more. John stated

that in this meeting he would like to get committee feedback to see if they are moving in the right direction and see what changes need to be made.

WY said that he likes the new version because it is cleaner and flows better in terms of the size of fonts and images. He added that although he is pleased with the change to the logo he does not like it in black. John clarified that he made it black temporarily until the committee decides on the colors. He agreed that the page has too much black and is looking for direction. WY said that it is time to start migrating contents so that the committee can begin reviewing the secondary pages. John responded that the migration has already started and that the pages are fully functional. He invited everyone to navigate throughout the page. RM concurred that this is a huge improvement over the last site and appreciates the change to the logo. As far as color, she thinks that playing with grayscale may help soften the page. RM added that the site looks good on mobile as well. She believes that the pairing of black and red should be explored. RM agreed the layout works a lot better because it is very clean.

MH concurred with the exploration of more red on the site. She had been hoping to receive a variety of color palette samples from John and asked if he could provide them. John asked the committee if they are open to changing the color palette. TV stated that the branches are each identified by a specific color and that those colors should remain the same. MH said she is a fan of minimalism but feels the colors are a bit dull. She noted that for the large Asian population too much black may be non-appetizing because in China when there is a huge tragedy it is used significantly. MH added that she also feels the blocks are too big. SS concurred regarding the size of the blocks. He said that the first thing people want to see is what the upcoming events are and suggested moving them up on the page. SS agreed that the colors are strong but not exciting especially with the size of the blocks. He thinks lighter colors are more attractive and wondered if blue, green and orange are the colors that the library wants to go with. MH said that we should give John the freedom to play with the colors.

John informed the committee that web design is going more with bigger blocks and tiles to aid people with sight issues. He noted that people usually are receptive to the size of the blocks especially due to their appearance on mobile. MH said that perhaps when the colors are changed then the size of the blocks will be less offensive. SS asked John if he could provide the committee with at least two other color schemes for the site, preferably something lighter.

JP suggested reaching out to the community to give them an opportunity to weigh in on two different options for the site's colors. RM reminded everyone that the Main Building Committee is composed of Trustees, Staff and Members of the Public. JP questioned the need for the "Online Resources" section and feels that the image scroll at the top of the page moves too fast. John stated that the speed of the scroll may be adjusted.

RM asked John what kind of support will be provided in terms of the maintenance of content. She indicated to staff that if it is an image driven website there has to be a strategy for the images. TV responded that pre-pandemic, Cindy was already actively updating the images on the site. RM questioned the organization on the top of the page and the placement of “Account Log In” at the top. She also recommended that the library logo should stay all caps but that the second line not be all caps to soften it. MH said that patrons are used to logging in at the upper right hand corner and it should be kept there to not frustrate users. The committee asked for Innovative to be contacted to see if they can apply a new design to their login page to match the library’s updated website. John confirmed that the committee wants that “Account Log In” box back on the top of the page. MH wondered if mobile and desktop site could function differently and John said that is something that can be done if the committee so desires. MH said that the younger generation doesn’t search through an entire webpage. John noted that the search box up top is for the catalogue not for the whole site.

RM said to move things along perhaps the committee should meet sooner than a month apart. SS asked if everyone is open to a meeting in two weeks. All committee members concurred. WY suggested a mock-up of the ideas discussed rather than a change to the whole site. John said he prefers to make the changes with real coding to see how they actually function.

John said the first thing he is going to do is make the color blocks smaller. He will also send out a few different color palettes to the committee. John urged them all to send him any colors they like since everyone has different tastes. Doing so will help him move forward with this change sooner.

New Items

SS asked if there will be any additional services offered by the library in the coming months as the school year ends on June 14th. TV responded that it is hard to make firm plans since we do not have any set dates to be able to move forward with anything. She said that the staff had a programming meeting on Monday to come up with different options to make available to the community. SS asked at what point staff will be allowed in the building. TV said that the library is part of Phase 4 for reopening. The soonest we could reopen for something like curbside may be mid-June.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Submitted by Gina Chase

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Action Items

Tracy Van Dyne

1. Contact Innovative to see if they can apply a new design to their login page to match the library's updated website
2. Schedule next Main Committee meeting in two weeks.