

Great Neck Library  
**BUILDING COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, January 27, 2021  
Via WebEx

**Board Members**

Barry Smith, Chair (BS)  
Weihua Yan (WY)  
Scott Sontag (SS)  
Josephine Mairzadeh (JM)

**Guests**

Greg Marett, Bayview Landscape Architecture  
Danny Ostad, Rockwell Developers  
David Jakim (DJ)

**Staff**

George Trepp (GT)  
Steven Kashkin (SK)  
Adam Hinz (AH)  
Charles Wohlgemuth (CW) absent with notice  
Justin Crossfox (JC) absent with notice  
Alana Mutum (AM)  
Egita Johnson (EJ)  
Garry Horodyski (GH) absent with notice

**Members of the Public**

Mimi Hu (MH)  
Kathleen Gold (KG)  
Marietta DiCamillo (MD)  
Marianna Wohlgemuth (MW)  
Josie Pizer (JP)  
Kate Goldberg (KG)  
Chan (CH)

**Call to Order**

BS called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. He announced that tonight's purpose is to move forward the Main library's landscaping project which has been on the backburner for five years.

**Landscaping Project**

BS stated that the original concept of the landscaping project was to create a space where one could read, study and have a breakout area to create in. He said that Ann Hyde donated upwards of 600k for the development of a children's garden area. BS announced that the project has already been approved by a prior board and it is the current board's mission to complete the job. He noted that this is our community and the Main Library is our centerpiece. BS said that they as a committee and as the board are the caretakers of the library and are charged with making it a beautiful space. He turned the meeting over to GT to provide the history of the project.

GT reported that in January 2016 the board accepted a bequest from the Ann Hyde estate in the amount of \$654,908.60. In July 2016 the board resolved, by unanimous vote, that the library create the Ann Hyde Memorial Children's Garden at the Main Library. Subsequently, in April 2017 the board approved, also unanimously, the final landscape plan submitted by Bayview Landscape Architecture and to proceed with a request for proposal for landscaping at the Main Library. GT announced that although a budget exists for the project, the actual cost will not be determined until the bidding is finalized. Once that is set, there will be benchmarks set up on the project which

must be complete for payment. GT said that GM is the landscape architect and DO is the construction manager. If, and when, the board approves the project to be moved forward, DO will be responsible for getting out bid specifications which should take approximately four to six weeks to get back. From there the board will evaluate the bids and accept one. Once that is done the process begins with construction starting approximately a month after that. GT said if the board approves in February, we are looking at a fall planting. He concluded that the project is at the final stage with 90% of it being permitted. The 10% remaining is the children's area. The area is up to code but board approval of the final plan is required to obtain the final permit from the Town.

GM thanked GT for his concise and appropriate summary of the project. He announced that GT shared questions that were submitted regarding the project. GM spoke to a question about the plan for the L shaped wall located by the Levels entrance. He said that the concept was two-fold. The area was either going to be managed by the Levels patrons to allow them to customize their sign. This would be an inhouse project with a minimal cost. The other option was to create an opportunity for sponsorship by selling small plaques that would adorn the wall and also generate some revenue. GM went on to a question specific to the area to the right of the front door. He said they are proposing a small sculptural element to be placed there along with some evergreen plant material that will last year-round. This would be finished off with river rock to clean the edges up resulting in a fresh look that will last through the four seasons. GM said that they would like to work with artists Gillie and Marc on this sculpture. These artists will also design the tree on the raised deck of the rear which will be the anchoring showpiece of the new campus. GM stated that they do have some budget numbers from the artists which will be plugged into the spreadsheet at the next phase of the project development. He moved onto the children's engagement area to identify the elements that will be in the garden. GM reiterated that the area is not a playground. He shared signage that will be at the entrance of the space which will acknowledge the benefactor, Ann Hyde. GM said that the elements are geared to the two- to five-year-old age bracket, therefore there are no seesaws, swings or monkey bars. He announced that the sensory engagement is on every level including multi-textural plant material. The plant material is specified to attract wildlife and is low maintenance. GM added that the outdoor area creates opportunities for outdoor workshops to engage children. He concluded his presentation by displaying an overhead view of the entire campus.

BS shared some of his ideas for a space that gives children the opportunity to engage in sensory learning. He wants a space that will advance the children's senses. JM echoed BS' sentiments and shared her concerns of parents using the library solely for the outdoor space. She feels it is prudent to engage with the community and recommended approaching local boys and girls scouts to see what their ideas are as far as creating sensory environments.

BS welcomed David Jakim. DJ stated that he is currently working with the Center for Disaster Resilience Solutions preparing communities for rising sea levels. His work on Long Island started in 2015 where he established the New York City Metropolitan Monarch Butterfly Alliance which forged partnerships with the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Queens Botanical Garden, Queens County Farm, Alley Pond Environmental Center and Bronx River Alliance. Co-jointly they established educational projects centered around monarch butterflies and engaging the youth in experiences with nature. They have a wide range of activities and opportunities that may be of interest for the space that is being established. DJ noted that they will be donating curriculum

guides to the library. He said that by establishing habitat for monarch butterflies, the library will also establish habitat for all the different species associated with them, including beetles, spiders, grasshoppers and various pollinators. BS said that what DJ is doing is great and acknowledged that the library has an opportunity to create biological diversity with our planting. He said that he will connect DJ to GM and DO to have them work on building an area that contains the diversity he speaks of.

MW wondered, since there are other components to the project aside from the education planting, if construction could begin immediately after board approval. GM said that the planting takes place at the end of the project so it is their goal is to break ground in the summer. MW asked if there will be different contractors for each aspect of the project. DO responded that over the next six weeks they will be reviewing bids for the project and bringing it back to the board for approval. Assuming everything gets approved the project should be able to start by June with the planting taking place in the fall.

BS asked GM to address the liability concerns regarding the proximity of the space to the water's edge. GM stated that there is fencing around the entire perimeter.

JP said much of this has already been discussed and that insurance has been taken care. She does not understand why they can't begin to work in the upper parking lots where there is no restriction. BS agreed that the beautification of the front should be done as Phase I. He asked everyone to keep in mind that this is a fluid process and that the Building Committee will be involved every step of the way. GT said that if the board is inclined, and wants to move the process along, a special meeting may be called in two weeks to approve moving forward with the project. WY agreed with JP regarding the upper parking lot and feels this is something that can be taken care of by the current landscapers. It does not need to be rolled into the landscaping project.

WY asked if they have the ability to do some phased implementations of the project and if changes be made to certain aspects without delaying the entire project. GM reiterated that it is a fluid process but that there are certain milestones that need to be hit. DO added that as they get through project procurement and pricing, they will know what the project is going to cost. Staging it will only delay it and end up costing the library more over the long run. DO wants everyone to understand that the longer the project takes the less focus and attention the overall construction team is going to have on it. He said that the faster we make decisions and the more organized we are on this the more successful the project is going to be. DO added that the longer it takes the more taxing it will be on the community in terms of living through a construction project.

By consensus of the majority of the committee it was decided to move the acceptance of the children's playground portion of the landscape project forward to the board for approval. They agreed to schedule a special board meeting for it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Submitted by Gina Chase

Great Neck Library  
**BRANCH COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, January 27, 2021  
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**Action Items**

**George Trepp**

1. Bring approval of play area for Main Library Landscaping Project to the board for approval and schedule a special board meeting for it.