

GREAT NECK LIBRARY
SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.
MAIN LIBRARY – MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

The following Trustees were present constituting a quorum:

Martin Sokol – President
Andrew Greene – Vice President
Janet Eshaghoff – Secretary
Marietta DiCamillo – Treasurer
Anna Kaplan – Assistant Treasurer
Varda Solomon – Assistant Treasurer
Josie Pizer

Also present: Jane B. Marino – Director
Laura Weir – Assistant Director
Neil Zitofsky – Business Manager

The attendance sheet, signed by members of the public who attended the meeting, is attached.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by President Martin Sokol for the purpose of a building plans design discussion and public input.

President Sokol thanked everyone for coming and indicated that the meeting scheduled with Dattner Architects for July 20, 2009, has been postponed and rescheduled to August 11, 2009, at Parkville. He summarized Board activities regarding the project to date, reviewed all contracts signed, and indicated that cost estimates will be coming in from DattnerArchitects and Park East, the Construction Management firm retained by the Library. These estimates will be preliminary and based on the three schemes:

Option A: Renovate existing building in kind (47,125 gross square foot)

Option B: Add approximately 16,000 square feet of expansion and renovate entire building (60,085 gross square foot)

Option C: Same as Option B but without existing mezzanine and reduce children's area by 2,000 square feet. (56,970 gross square foot) – one with the full expansion of 12,500 feet; one with renovation and no expansion; and one with a slightly smaller expansion.

President Sokol stated that the Library will receive separate estimates from each company and any differences between the two would be worked out with all parties' participation.

He further indicated that the Board would hold as many meetings as necessary in order for the public to be fully informed and that it was important for the public to have the opportunity to vote on this project.

There were a couple of questions from the public regarding the process of cost estimating and a few Board members replied that each company is contractually obligated to keep the process pure and that each company has been vetted and comes highly recommended.

As to the question on whether or not the Library would stay open during renovation, and although Trustee Greene indicated that the Library did not build that issue into any sort of contract, that question still has not been resolved, although the issues of safety for public and staff are important to consider.

Trustee Greene went on to describe the three plans as outlined by Trustee Sokol earlier in the meeting, and he stated that the Library will expect to receive detailed cost estimates with all details laid out. When asked if the architect had presented three plans, he replied that the Library had three plans to look at. Trustee DiCamillo clarified that Option C had no detailed plans, the way Option B had. Trustee Pizer stated that it's two separate approaches: we do not have any information on the other two cost schemes.

When asked if the building will move out its entrance, Trustee Greene replied yes. When asked if the community room's floor will be sloped, Director Marino replied that the Library ultimately would make that decision based on past usage patterns.

A staff member in attendance expressed concerned over the possible loss of the mezzanine as outlined in Option C. Trustee Greene replied that in the best of all possible worlds, the Library would love to have a full third floor, but there is a cost to it, so that is why the Library is requesting that the cost be estimated separately. Many problems with the present mezzanine were cited, i.e. it's not ADA compliant, its present structure is inflexible, and it allows for no growth in the future.

A member of the public asked how much of the renovation is being driven by concerns over non-compliance with codes. Trustee Greene responded that many codes needed to be considered: ADA, egress, parking, fire, to name a few. So the cost of those would not change. Trustee DiCamillo also noted that the mechanical systems would need renovation, even without an expansion.

In a discussion of the parking issue, a member of the public stated that the town of North Hempstead is insisting on 60 spaces and that Mayor Samansky of the Village of Saddle Rock has control over 30 spaces on Bayview Avenue. Trustee Sokol conceded that the Great Neck Library has no firm commitment from the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District for the Library to build a parking lot on their property although Trustee Greene characterized it as close to an agreement. There was some outrage expressed by members of the public that these spaces on Bayview Avenue would be removed, although Trustee Greene noted that this would not be a move one individual can make. Trustee

DiCamillo brought up the necessity to meet with Mayor Samansky and the Library Director noted that correspondence between the Library and the Mayor had begun to make that happen.

When asked what would happen if parking spaces are not available, Trustee Greene stated that the architect is optimistic about adding on spaces in the existing lot and getting a variance from the Town. When it was noted by the public that there are no codes specific to this type of building, i.e. a library, Trustee Pizer noted that the Board needs to meet with all parties necessary to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

When asked if whether the Library had sought and received input on children's and young adult spaces, the Library Director responded that both issues were addressed in the public survey. When asked by Trustee DiCamillo to see the updated statistics on that, the Director noted they would be forwarded to the Board as soon as they were updated.

There was some discussion among the public about publicity of this project, some voicing concerns that the word was not getting out to a broad enough section of the public.

Trustee Sokol indicated that the next meeting would involve a discussion of cost estimates from both the architect and the construction manager.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Eshaghoff
Secretary of the Board of Trustees