

Great Neck Library
Branch Committee
Wednesday, June 28, 2017
Parkville Branch Library

Board Members

Marietta DiCamillo (MD)
Douglas Hwee (DH)
Robert Schaufeld (RS)
Michael Fuller, Chair (MF)

Staff

Tracy Geiser (TG)
Alana Mutum, Lakeville (AM)
Charles Wohlgemuth (CW)
Justin Crossfox, Parkville (JC)
Kathleen Cotter, Station (KC) (absent)

Members of the Public

Separate sign in

Call to Order

The meeting of Great Neck Library's Branch Committee was called to order June 28th at 7:35pm at the Parkville Branch by MF.

MF thanked all for attending and apologized for the delay in holding the meeting. The meeting is to discuss all branches, with the focus on Parkville.

Action Items

Charles Wohlgemuth

1. *Contact management for Station to report broken glass and a table by the freight elevator. Done.*

Justin Crossfox

1. *Think about the identity of the Parkville branch for the next Branch meeting and be prepared to share. To be addressed later in the meeting.*

Kathy Giotsas—addressed by Tracy Geiser

1. *Investigate a book drop for the Lakeville branch. On hold in anticipation of renovation.*
2. *Investigate reserving museum passes on line and virtual passes. The Library is currently working on the online reservation system. The passes will be available at all branches. Virtual passes will be investigated next.*
3. *Make a recommendation to the BOT to hire a space planner for Station and Parkville. Looking to this meeting to get input from the community to aid in developing plan.*

Lakeville Branch

MF directed to AM for an update on the Lakeville Branch.

AM noted that there are currently 2 programs per week and the number will grow this summer. At most, there will be 7 programs per week for adults and children.

On Monday, Current Events will begin for adults. All are welcome. The start time is 11 am and participants are asked to bring their own coffee. The program will remain on Mondays for the rest of the year. Sticks in the Stacks will continue.

The Children's programs are diverse and include Chalk Zone, Creative Corner, Pajama Storytime, Teen Tech Squad, Family Game Night and more.

The focus for the summer is on children. In the fall, the focus will move to the adults.

MF shared that there has only been wonderful comments from the patrons. AM noted the staff members are excellent in handling all that goes on at the branch.

MF moved to the memory of Ruth Klement. The Library chose to wait on renovation decisions to choose how to memorialize her memory. The Library has decided not to expand Lakeville. AM is doing wonderful things within the space. All good things are happening at Lakeville.

Station Branch

MF directed to TG for an update on Station.

TG shared that the Library is considering a STEM lab at the branch, as well as an area dedicated to seniors. There are lots of ideas. Movie nights are doing well and growing. Donna Litke and KC are working together to get more going at Station.

Parkville Branch

MF directed to JC for an update on Parkville.

JC introduced himself to the patrons as the Branch Head for Parkville. JC shared that the summer is all about the children. The lizards are returning, as well as Pajama Story Time and crafts.

For adults, pilates got a good start, but the instructor was unable to continue. The Library is looking for a resolution. The book club is strong. For November, there will be a Veteran's Fair. There are lots of programs down the pike.

MF looked to address the back room at Parkville. JC asked to hear from the public on the item. MF opened the meeting to the public, noting that each member is invited to speak in a time frame of 3 minutes or less. There is no pressure to speak.

DH asked if the Public Assembly Permit has been secured for Parkville. MD noted that it has not been secured and will require further investigation.

Marianna Wohlgemuth shared that she has been involved in the Library since 1990. The back room would be best utilized as the Children's Room. The rear entrance with the existing rest room could be incorporated into the plan. Seniors come in for newspapers and computers. The Library could add reading areas and study centers. Currently there are 2 computers for games and 2 computers for internet designated for the children. The number needs to grow.

MF cautioned that the Library has to investigate whether the outer bathroom is available for continued use, as well as the rear entrance. MD agreed and shared that the budget includes a full time Children's librarian.

Eleanor Reed shared that she is a senior and a member of Project Independence. The back room has terrible acoustics and would not fit their needs. The front room works better for the seniors. Movies in the afternoon would be great.

MD asked the BOT and staff members to introduce themselves to the patrons.

Robert Billings shared that he is a member of the community for 46 years. At the Main, the computer area is wonderful. If Parkville were updated similarly, it would be incentive to learn. DH commented that the Library is providing teen help to teach computer skills this summer.

Irv Mirskin noted that he comes to the branch every day. The staff is super and keeps the branch in order. The back room would be useful for winter tutoring and special events. It would be helpful if an area was designated for cell phone use. MF noted that the patrons are asked to step outside with the cell phones. The branch would have to look for a spot within.

Sheila Cursio explained that the Children's Room moving to the back would pose problems. It would be isolated. The branch is open for 66 hours a week. One librarian wouldn't cover all of the hours. The back door has no ramp. Many parents come with carriages. If they enter through the front, the Children's Room is right there now. The back room is a long way off. The children travelling to the back would be destructive to the adults.

MD noted that there will be security cameras in the plan. The back room is twice the size of the current Children's Room.

Carol Karpus shared that she is part of the community since 1970. The original branch was very small. If the Children's Room was in the back, the back door has a lot of traffic with cars and buses. The School Board has the prerogative to take back space if needed.

Janet Riger shared that she is in the community for over 30 years. She agreed with both Sheila Cursio for front access and Marianna Wohlgemuth for multipurpose use to include teens.

DH asked if walls could be moved. MF explained that the Library will be securing a space planner to evaluate. Nothing can be guaranteed. The professional will come in and make the plans. The community will be invited back to share the plans and comment.

Fran Berger shared that she has been in the community since the 1960's. There are lots of young people moving. There is a lack of communication with the community. The Parkville community feels like the step child.

Betty Leong noted that if the Children's Room remained in the front, there would be more eyes on the children. There is a safety issue. Move the adults back for quiet. Move the shelving back also and open up the space. The Children's Room could be expanded right where it is. The children's computers are outdated and should be replaced.

MD asked all to keep in mind that with increasing the size of the Children's Room in the front, the Library needs to figure out how to do this without obstructing the entrance. Ms. Leong noted that the entrance could be moved.

MD shared that the Library had a planner several years ago that suggested repointing the entrance to the side of the building and moving the Circulation Desk to the center. The concept would open up the Children's Room.

Jane Billings shared that she goes to New Hyde Park, where there are a lot of programs for the older patrons. They have afternoon movies and exercise classes. There is nothing at Parkville. There was yoga once for 5 weeks. The space was too tight. The back room could be used for many activities.

MF shared that the goal is to try to maximize the space for everyone. Parkville is constrained by the physical space. Programs are important. The Library needs to be the center of the community.

MD shared that the committee has been kicking around the idea of specialty branches. Great Neck is the only system in Nassau with branches. The committee would like to see unique activities at each, like a STEM lab at Station.

MF noted that there isn't a large enough budget to replicate what was done at Main. It didn't make sense to enlarge Lakeville. Station was overused during the renovation of Main. The committee realizes that the older population does not want to go to Main, as well as moms with strollers would like to stay close to home. Carol Karpus added that Great Neck is a triangle. To travel to Main after school is a very long commute. It's fine on a Sunday for a concert.

John Karpus shared that he has been in the community since 1970. There is new technology available, with items like 3D printers. The Library could offer these to the community, along with training classes. Adult Ed has deemed the 3D printers too expensive. Nassau Community College will run a training program. They send out an instructor with the 3D printer. The Library should investigate. MD shared that the Library has applied for a grant for 3D printers.

MF advised the group that there is a suggestion box at every branch. The BOT reads every slip that is submitted and pays attention to the requests. The Library is trying to increase technology all the time. There is streaming at Main to allow programs to be viewed from room to room. The Wi-Fi access will be increased. DH noted that bandwidth needs to be increased for the public. Currently it is limited to 2 mbs. MD asked that statistic's be gathered to support the increase in bandwidth.

Maria Condello explained that she was born and raised here and is raising her family here as well. There is not enough room in the Children's Room to do a puzzle. The location of the iPads is terrible. The kids race directly to the iPads before they even look at a book. They need to be hidden in the back. There needs to be more for children. There is nothing to do, not even a LEGO table. The children are looking to interact and it is not provided. There are too many tables. More floor space would be better. There is not a librarian for the children to identify

with. There are always different faces. The staff is very helpful and Justin does his best to jump in.

Ms. Wohlgemuth shared that the community loves the branch and proceeded with questions. How long is the lease? MD estimated 10 years.

Ms. Wohlgemuth asked if the budget for the remodel is to be set before or after the plan.

MF explained that that has not been discussed. The Library would most likely start with a plan. The space planner would be asked, with caution, to let the imagination run wild and develop a plan. There may need to be cut backs. Money has to be spent on all branches.

Ms. Wohlgemuth asked if the space planner will work in relation to the community. MF noted that the committee will bullet the suggestions from the community and give to the planner. The community will not meet with the planner. Fresh eyes may come up with new ideas.

Ms. Leong suggested that the Library survey the parents in the community. Have staff and volunteers interact with the families.

MD noted that the idea would be considered. Further, the BOT is looking to increase the number of computers, increase the silent study space, enlarge the Children's Room, and enlarge the meeting space. It's all in the plan to move forward. The survey would be best utilized when a plan is in place for feedback. The Library is looking to be more service oriented.

In response to DH, JC noted that there are suggestions forms at the Circulation Desk.

MF expressed interest in gathering data. The size of the required spaces will be influenced by the number of attendees.

Ms. Billings questioned whether the branch would close for the renovation.

MF explained that it depends on the extent of the renovation. If the branch is gutted, it will have to close. If the work is done in stages, every effort will be made to keep it open. The Library looks to provide what is best for the public. MD pointed out that it is less costly to shut down.

Mr. Karpus suggested adding accordion doors to aid in redefining space.

JC asked the patrons to feel free to drop him a line or email with any concern or question.

Ms. Leong questioned the sorting machine that will be installed at Main. TG explained that the RFID system is currently being installed in Main. At the beginning of August, it is expected that the equipment will be installed. The sorter will sort the books as they are returned to isolate branches, kids, and the like. The gates for security will also be installed. MF added that the sorter will be in Circulation, not in a public area.

MD shared that the security system is needed, whether the Library chose RFID or an alternate system.

MD noted that the recommendation for the space planner for Parkville and Station was approved at the BOT meeting. TG can go forward with the RFP.

DH questioned the security issue and MF moved the topic to the Main Building Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Submitted by Jamie Eckartz

Great Neck Library
Branch Committee
Wednesday, June 28, 2017
Parkville Branch Library
Action Items

Tracy Geiser

1. Once the reserving museum passes on line is installed, investigate virtual passes.
2. Investigate the requirements for the Public Assembly Permit for Parkville.
3. Investigate the program from Nassau Community College for 3D printer demo.
4. Gather statistics on bandwidth usage.
5. Write the RFP for the space planner for Station and Parkville.
6. Investigate access to the back door and bathroom at the rear of Parkville.

Justin Crossfox

1. Gather data on attendance at programs at Parkville.

Robert Schaufeld

1. Take on the topic of security for the collection at the Main Building Committee meeting.