

Great Neck Library
Branch Committee
Special Meeting for interview of Space Planners
Tuesday, November 7, 2017
Parkville Branch Library

Board Members

Marietta DiCamillo (MD)
Josie Piser (JP)
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)

Call to Order

The special meeting of Great Neck Library's Branch Committee was called to order November 7th at 7:00 pm at the Parkville Branch by MF and seconded by MD and voted yes by all in attendance.

MF addressed the committee for the purpose of the meeting—interviews of potential space planners for the Station and Parkville branches.

MF turned the floor over to the 1st presenter—Lothrop.

Lothrop

James Lothrop introduced himself and his counterparts—Robert Gabalski and Judy Girod. Mr. Lothrop went on to explain that the company has been in operation for 50 years and works with a staff of 50 individuals. The company does a variety of work, including libraries. Over 75 libraries have been done and each unique depending on the needs of the individual library. Mr. Lothrop went on to illustrate some of the library projects that have been completed.

The layout for Station branch was set up with minimal input from the Great Neck Library. Mr. Lothrop started with the existing floor plan. It was understood that the major focus is on the back areas. Moving on to the proposed plan, the 2 ramp areas would be removed to add a fair amount of space and would not be costly to remove.

The layout would start with moving the Children's to the center. Along the wall, the flow would be the Maker Space, Young Adult Room, and then the Program Room for children and teens. On the opposite side, the flow would be Reference, Adult Stacks with intermittent tables and chairs. The back area would be broken up into IT Room, Staff Area, Tech Room, and Community Room.

Mr. Lothrop cautioned that the layout is conceptual. There would need to be conversation with the Library staff to elicit information of the requirements and the plan would be altered accordingly.

In response to committee questions, Mr. Lothrop estimated that the project would take approximately 6 months and the cost would be in the area of \$600K.

Mr. Lothrop moved onto Parkville. For Plan A, the Children's Dept. would be moved to the rear. A line of stacks would create a path for the children to go to the rear. The quiet space would be next to Children's, followed by tables, chairs, and stacks. The Community Room would be in the old Children's Dept. and seat 70. The circulation desk and bathrooms remain as is.

Mr. Lothrop noted that the biggest challenge in the plan would be to add a toilet to the Children's Dept.

For Plan B, the entrance moves to the center on Lakeville Road. The adults and children enter and go in opposite directions.

MF cautioned that the spaces—Station and Parkville—are leased spaces. It is necessary to keep costs down.

Mr. Lothrop noted that if hired, the company would work with the requirements of the Library and work within the budget constraints.

MF asked RS if any of the outdoor space belongs to Parkville. It may be an opportunity to use the parking lot door as the main entrance. TG agreed to call the school and investigate.

MDA Design Group

MF welcomed the 2nd presenter, Elizabeth Martin.

Ms. Martin distributed her resume and went directly to the presentation.

Ms. Martin spoke at length on the changes in libraries and the service provided to the community. The library is a place that facilitates change in people's lives. The library empowers users with access to fulfill needs.

Ms. Martin went on to discuss library functions that are disappearing, that are in play now, and future opportunities that need to be welcomed.

After visiting both sites, sketch plans were made up. The RFP was very brief. Station and Parkville are interior design projects, which keeps the cost down.

Ms. Martin reviewed the Station proposed layout. The Children's and Media areas are flipped in the plan.

At Parkville, the Children's area would be moved to the rear and the Community Room to the front.

There is a process for what is needed. A Hopes and Dreams meeting would take place to find out what the Library wants. Every square inch would be utilized to satisfy the needs. The process would go further to tap on the community.

In regards to cost, Ms. Martin explained that the interior design cost would be in the area of \$35 per square foot. If the entire space is not done, the total cost will be less. If glass walls are added, cost will be increased. The interior design process is quick, compared to construction.

Ms. Martin will advise on interior design costs from other projects, specifically Locust Valley and Massapequa.

In regards to challenges, the long building at the Parkville branch would be better served with a center entrance.

The goal is to listen and learn from the Library staff to then come up with the desired outcomes.

Silberstang Lasky

MF welcomed the 3rd presenter and turned over the floor.

Barry Silberstang introduced himself, his partner Arthur Lasky and the project manager Daniel Kohn.

Mr. Silberstang noted that there are many questions to do a thorough job.

For Parkville, a corridor is created to move traffic through the building. Active areas are grouped near the circulation desk and the stacks are pushed to the rear. The project requires minimal construction. The Children's Dept. will have a glass wall for visibility.

Mr. Silberstang noted that there is an interactive process to decide the needs and the budget will be respected.

At Station, the stairs and ramps are to be removed to recover space. The setup will create a corridor through the building and the circulation desk will be moved to the side.

Mr. Silberstang commented that he will work with the staff to establish the timing, price and quality of the finished project.

In response to JP on the costs listed as \$36K for Station and \$45K for Parkville, Mr. Silberstang noted that the costs include all architectural services, from construction to installation.

Wrap Up

TG informed the committee that she will contact the school at Parkville to investigate the door situation.

MF asked the committee if they were ready to make a choice tonight.

All agreed and a vote was taken. All but 1 voted for MDA Design Group. The 1 vote went to Silerstang Lasky.

MD commented that MDA was focused on design.

JC noted that he felt that Silberstang Lasky, in his opinion, would take better direction.

TG shared that MDA thinks outside the box.

MF asked TG to write the resolution and add to the BoT calendar.

MD moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. MF seconded the motion.

Submitted by Jamie Eckartz