

MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

1. At a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Monroe County Library System held on January 20, 2009 at 4:00 PM at the Mary K. Daume Library Service Center, the meeting was called to order by Chair Elizabeth J. Taylor. Roll call by Secretary Larry Gregory as follows:

Present: Elizabeth J. Taylor, chair; MaryAnn Bourque, Vice-chair; Larry Gregory, Secretary; Catharine Calder, Trustee; Fred Lux, Trustee; Nancy Colpaert, Director.

Staff: Nancy Bellaire, Marie Sowa, Jane Steed, Bill Reiser, Lou Komorowski, Jadin Howton

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to transact business.

2. Motion by Vice-chair Bourque, supported by Secretary Gregory, to accept the agenda as printed. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment – None.
4. New Business

The special meeting was called so that board members could meet with architect James Mumby of Fanning/Howey Associates, Novi, Michigan. Mr. Mumby introduced Tracy Petrella of Fanning/Howey Associates and Alyce Riemenschneider of Riemenschneider Design Associates. He noted that he had provided administrative staff with the names of five construction management firms and a sample request for proposals that could be used to search for a construction manager for the project.

The meeting took on a format of a question and answer session.

Mr. Mumby asked the board if the goal of the project is to get as much new space as possible or to fix the current space and expand the building with the remaining funds. Board members suggested that we make the most of the money we have available in a lasting way while noting that we would hate to cut corners for the sake of gaining space. Board members expressed a desire for a conservative project that is “not overboard” “not ostentatious” or too “glitzy”. It was noted that currently the Ellis facility looks “dated”. Members talked of “bringing the outside in” “taking advantage of the river” noting that the current building is devoid of natural materials. Making the library “warm and comfortable”, “like a living room” was also mentioned. Board members expressed a desire for the personality of the community to be imbedded in the building including Monroe’s rich history. Other descriptions were a “cornerstone of democracy” and “gathering place for the community”.

Ms. Riemenschneider suggested organic materials including slate and wood, materials that come from the earth that appeal to our senses be considered for the project.

Mr. Mumby suggested that the existing interior may need to be reorganized to be more effective. He is not thinking of modifying the entrances, but if that is a long term goal, he would like to know so that the current project doesn't preclude that from happening in the future. Mr. Mumby also asked about the possible use of space in the existing garage, noting that if we wish to capture that space in the future we need to talk about it now. Access to the garage space may affect any addition planned as part of this project.

Mr. Mumby asked about the current usage of the building for research with staff in attendance stating that perhaps 33% of use is for genealogy and local history research, with protected, secure space a possible consideration.

Mr. Mumby wondered if the architectural team would be working with a small committee or with the board. Chair Taylor suggested that the Facilities Committee would initially work with the architect and then present it to the board as needed. Trustee Calder asked to have the Facilities Committee defined. Vice chair Bourque, who is chair of the Facilities Committee, listed the current members, herself, Trustee Calder, Director Colpaert, Nancy Bellaire, Tim Carr, Marie Sowa and Jane Steed. Trustee Calder suggested that the people who work at Ellis be included. Director Colpaert noted that Lou Komorowski, Bill Reiser, Sheree Beaudry and Jadin Howton had served on the architect selection committee.

Mr. Mumby asked for consistency in the committee noting that the committee will need to meet every three weeks.

When asked if the library could remain open during construction, Mr. Mumby noted that during construction of an addition the library could be open, but it would be better if the library would close when reworking the existing space, for example when performing electrical and mechanical work. He noted that it would also be more cost effective to close during that phase of the construction.

Mr. Mumby explained some of the challenges that any additional square footage added to the building will present including fire exiting and fire protection in an "assembly" type building.

Mr. Mumby wanted to know "how green" the board would like the building to be. As green as possible within the budget? Or eligible for LEED certification? Ms. Calder discussed sustainability as an investment asking Mr. Mumby to explore all the possibilities with the idea that a long term investment would save the community's money and also save the earth. Mr. Mumby will review the categories in a LEED certification and explain what is involved in each category.

Mr. Mumby clarified that the budget does not include technology cabling, equipment or RFID technology. He will provide a list of information needed from the technology department.

Mr. Mumby thanked the board for their input noting that the most critical piece will be the balance between the existing structure and the addition.

5. Board Comments - None

6. Public Comment – Jadin Howton responded to an earlier comment about 33% of the use of Ellis being researchers, noting that it is a full service library with need for space for children and also adult programming such as Blues events.

7. Announcements

Date of next regular board meeting is Monday, February 9, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the Ida Branch Library. Mr. Lux asked to be excused from the meeting.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Trustee Calder, supported by Vice-chair Bourque, to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Gregory, Secretary

Elizabeth J. Taylor, Chair