

Irvin L. Young Memorial Library
431 W Center St
Whitewater WI 53190
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Online Virtual Meeting
Monday, March 8, 2021, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

MINUTES

Mission Statement:

We will have the space and the stuff to do the things that you want.

Our Values: Safe & welcoming; Trust; Diversity; Fun; Lifelong learning and creativity; Making connections; Service excellence

1. Call to Order at 5:06 p.m.

Present: Doug Anderson, Lisa Dawsey Smith, Brienne Diebolt-Brown, Anne Hartwick, Steve Smith, Jim Winship, Jaime Weigel

Absent: Jennifer Motszko, Kathy Retzke

Staff: Stacey Lunsford

2. Library Building Project ~ see notes from February's meeting at the end of this document
 - a. Discussion of feedback given to StudioGC at the regular board meeting of February 15, 2021. This discussion is to set the trustees' priorities for the building addition to aid in decision-making related to costs. These priorities will be relayed to StudioGC as they continue to refine the conceptual design.
 - Updates on recent meetings were provided: Stacey met with Rick McCarthy from StudioGC on March 3rd to discuss staff work areas. The Library Expansion Committee met on March 4th.
 - The Board discussed losing an entrance on Center St. and what impact it would have on foot traffic coming from that side of town. It was suggested that adding a nature trail or small path would make this more pedestrian friendly.
 - Shelving in the new plan would be similar but shorter. Rick has suggested weeding the DVD collection. Stacey shared how the growing digital library collection affects the physical collection; all physical collections, with the exception of the children's collection, have been shrinking.
 - Supervision of the teen area was discussed. Stacey said staffing needs for this area will be addressed when the conceptual plan is finalized and the staff is invited for input.
 - The Board reviewed the conceptual plan and the suggestions made at last month's meeting to identify priorities.

- Pedestrian friendly path: it was decided to get a cost estimate on the materials.
- The green space on Center St. could be utilized as an outdoor area since there won't be an entrance on that side of the building anymore.
- The Board would like to see the ideas from the architects for a nursing area that has a comfortable chair or seating, power outlet, and is semi-private/out of the traffic area.
- Anne pointed out the plan doesn't have a Friends area for selling books. Stacey said this was mislabeled and will be included.
- Anne suggested fundraising for a fireplace and reading area.
- The space needed for the food pantry and clothes closet was discussed. Presently, it is a relatively small space. The Board would like to maintain a similarly-sized space in the new design.
- Bathroom accessibility for the early learning area was discussed. The cost of adding a new bathroom was raised and weighed against the need for a vaulted ceiling in the foyer; both were equally valued and considered priorities.
- Stacey will ask Rick about the cost of adding a bathroom in the children's area but also ask if there is a way to move the children's area to its current location so that it's closer to the bathroom.
- Stacey reported that a market analysis for the houses on Center St. has been completed. It was suggested that the library get a market analysis for the duplex on Forest Ave. Stacey will get this after checking with the architects to make sure that property isn't needed for the outdoor green space or water retention.
- The Board agreed to give our list of suggestions/priorities to Rick without ranking them. This would allow the Board to get more information from StudioCG to help drive the decision-making process.

Adjourned at 6:00 PM

Comments in the Chat Box: none

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jaime Weigel on March 9, 2021

Notes taken from February 15th meeting

StudioGC shared the layout of the proposed expansion project.

Key takeaways:

- One entrance to a Discovery Space with lots of light and high ceilings.
- Meeting rooms, self-service area, teen area, and maker space in the foyer.

- Night gate between foyer and library would allow the entrance area to be available for non-library hours.
- Retractable walls to accommodate different-sized events.
- Total square footage: 14,000 (first floor)
- 5 additional parking spots required.
- Lower stacks and more open space in the children's area.
- Parent-time area with flexible furniture for caregivers.
- Wall with manipulatives for preschool-aged children.
- Activity room for story time and other children's events.
- Possibility for patio/garden area off of the parking area.
- Additional power outlets in seating areas to accommodate laptops and devices.
- Furniture made to work with integral power.

Suggestions:

- Pedestrian friendly path from Center St. to the entrance.
- Make the bathroom more accessible to the early learning area and accommodations for nursing mothers.
- Teen area needs more staff supervision.
- Make something meaningful in the outdoor space.
- Space for food pantry and community clothes closet.