

**Berkeley Public Library
Board of Library Trustees**

**Special Meeting
May 25, 2010**

**MINUTES
6:30 p.m.**

**Northbrae Community Church
941 The Alameda**

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Call to Order

The special meeting of May 25, 2010 was called to order by Chair Kupfer at 6:36 PM.

Present: Trustees Winston Burton, Abigail Franklin, Susan Kupfer and Darryl Moore (arrived 6:38).

Absent: Carolyn Henry-Golphin

Also present: Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services; Douglas Smith, Deputy Director; Dennis Dang, Library Admin Manager; Rachel MacNeilly, North Branch Supervising Librarian; Alan Bern, Library Special Services Coordinator; Jenifer Shurson, HR Analyst; Eve Franklin, Administrative Secretary.

Rene Cardinaux, AIA, Consultant

Tom Elliot Fisch – Doug Tom, AIA, Design Principal and Lara Kaufman, Architect LEED AP

B. Public Comments

1. Roger – Will there be a replacement for lost open space enjoyed by students?; Given the city's \$15 million shortfall, why are we not waiting to proceed with this expansion? *Chair Kupfer – The branch project is being funded as a result of the passage of Measure FF which created bonds to fund the projects*
2. Bradley Wiedmaier – Voted to renovate, why the less green choice to rebuild 2 branches instead of utilizing what we have?
3. Bradley Wiedmaier – Current plans for Claremont and North Branches plans seem to be taking a contrasting contemporary addition rather than taking inspiration from the existing building.
4. Peter Warfield – Expressed concerns about some of the plans and statistics and history. Concerned about loss of shelving space in proportion to percent of space increases.

C. Report from library employees and unions, discussion of staff issues - None.

D. Report from Board of Library Trustees – None.

E. Approval of Agenda

R10-037 Moved by Trustee Burton , seconded by Trustee Franklin, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

II. BRANCH PROJECT ARCHITECT PRESENTATIONS

A. Measure FF North Branch Library Update

Director Corbeil – To date the design team and staff have presented plans to the full Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) three times; March 4 for a preview of the design, April 1 for the Application for a Structural Alteration Permit which was continued to May 6. The design was approved. Following the presentation tonight we will continue to work with the architects on the LEED and sustainability aspects of the project and with the sub-committee of the LPC.

Doug Tom and Lara Kaufman, representing the North Branch Library design team of Architectural Resources Group (ARG) and Tom Elliot Fisch provided an update on the Design Development Phase. Mr. Tom suggested an approach for the presentation that will divide the project into two parts, starting with the exterior and Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) discussion to be followed by the interiors, as these are two sets of

boards. He began with a review of the goals for the project (attachment 1). Focus has been on restoring historic aspects on exterior; development of addition at the Josephine Street elevation; landscaping; interior features such as the rotunda; programmatic improvements and work area expansion (attachment 2). The floor plan was reviewed by Mr. Tom with the major areas called out, adult wing, children's wing, new addition containing teen space on main level (attachment 3a & b). The largest of the 3 small rooms (off the rotunda) which is now the staff work area will be public space in the renovation design. The lower level addition on Hopkins is at ground level and will contain the staff lounge, elevator and stairs, program room and storage, and the public toilets. The plan has essentially not changed since the last BOLT presentation with one minor exception. The previously shown addition was of a more modern design, in the last four months the addition has evolved. Since the last presentation in January the design team worked with the LPC to develop a design that is more sensitive to the existing building. The angled overhang on the addition has been eliminated. Paired windows in the addition now mimic the paired windows in the original building. All windows are wood framed. Elevator/stair core will have a vine covered trellis. (attachments 4 & 5)

The front façade / elevation changes are: the handicapped ramp will be removed and a new one built to current code on the east side (adult wing) and exterior features to be refurbished and restored (attachment 6). The landscaping, again has not changed much, a small court yard is created in front where existing ramp is (attachments 7a & b). Courtyard will include a low seat wall and benches and plants placed in front of the landing between stairs. All of the large trees are retained and the elevator is repositioned with a 'green' wall planned. Mr. Tom pointed out on the exterior material board (attachment 8), which was presented to the full LPC for review and comment, that two different exterior color schemes have been put forward, the selection of which will occur latter in the process. Landmarks Preservation Commission gave conditional approval on the Structural Alteration Permit. The conditions as stated by Mr. Tom are as follows: review details on front entry design; review details on the vine material on the elevator/stair core; want to see a sidewalk sample and specifications – current sidewalk in pinkish in color with new/replaced sidewalks to match; review all lighting inside and outside; look at canopy/awning details over new lower level entry; weigh in on final color palette; review details of existing windows and finishes as they relate to decisions on the new windows including paint and mullions; review details for interior signage and furniture; review specifications on concrete to be used on lower addition; the lower section of existing building is board formed, want to see plans for new addition using similar design on lower section to help marry new and old; and review of final construction documents.

That completed the summary of the exterior components of the project.

Public Comments:

1. Roger – Exterior Colors? *Doug Tom – The exterior color scheme is pending LPC approval. The current color is not the original color. LPC is divided about the color scheme.*
2. Patron – Identified herself as a Berkeley resident and designer. Pleased with how the design has evolved. Recommended replicating scale and setback of original windows if possible. Are the pairs of windows the same size at the original? Yes. Vines on trellis is a beautiful detail. Discussed the glass connector between old and new addition; if you are going to make a bold move in a modern direction it should be super bold and not sort of half way, like the Jewish Museum in San Francisco. What are plans for benches?
3. Patron – How much of the flat grassy area in the back be removed by the addition. *Doug Tom – The addition will go out to 16 feet from the property line. The remaining area will be landscaped, whether it will be grassy area or other landscaping materials is not known at this time.*

What is the philosophy for having so little shelf expansion compared to space expansion? *Donna – It was never the intent to increase shelving space. Goals of the project were to restore the library to its historic grandeur, make it ADA accessible, seismically safe and to bring the building up to current building codes in every aspect. Much of the new space is taken up by increased restrooms required by current code, ADA accessibility requirements, staff workspace and a multipurpose room. Much of the lobby is currently used as staff work space. It will be devoted to public space with browsing shelves and check out desk.*

Asked for clarification of children's programming space. *Doug Tom – Children's Programming can take place away from the children's wing in the multi-purpose room on the lower level which can be configured for a variety of uses. Can that room have shelving as well?*

4. Patron – Hope the benches are not benches that someone could sleep on. Landscaping around the benches should be easy to keep up and not easily destroyed. Hope the exterior is not painted in some weird color that was cool in the 20's. Take into account how it looks with the rest of the neighborhood. in the
5. Gene Bernardi - Is it the Adult Reading Room the same size? Yes.
6. Janet – Neighbor of the library – Take advantage of the opportunity to make the back side of the library active space. Make it interesting and inviting.
7. Peter Warfield – Requested a breakdown of how the increased square footage is being used.
8. Patron – Spoke about the windows and columns between with art deco tiles on the capitals.
9. Roger – Glad to hear plans for using board-formed concrete on addition. Original paired windows with slanted sills are distinctive. Maybe it would be better to mimic the columns and slanted sills of the original windows on the new windows in the addition.
10. Peter Warfield – Will the extra entry on the back be open all the time, will there be staffing issues. Have not seen any statistics about the breakdowns on the square footage.

Director Corbeil – We've been discussing security issues with staff, the lower level probably won't be open unless there is an event going on in the multi-purpose room. That's why we focused on keeping all of the public services on the main level. My understanding is that we had square footages on the spaces at earlier meetings.

Chair Kupfer – You can see where the additional space is going by looking at the different color sections on the drawings. By moving some of the services out of the public spaces that are currently jam-packed, you are gaining square footage in the children's and adult reading rooms. You can't just make a square footage estimate, you've got a different way of looking at and using the space. We all thought that was a wonderful way of returning the original space to the way it looked in the 30's.

11. Betty Olds – Anyone who wants to question the square footage and how it's going to be used, please go to the library now and look at the space the staff has. Frankly it's been a disgrace for years and years. I'm surprised staff didn't quit. We talk about the ramp not being ADA, I think that staff room is violating some rules to the way it is now. I'm all for any space that can be given to staff.
12. Patron – Ditto that for teens. They had no space before and we want to give our teenagers some decent space.
13. Barbara Alesandrini, former branch manager - When the library originally opened it had a collection of 12,000 volumes. Ten years ago it had ballooned up to over 50,000 volumes. Staff work space, bathrooms and multi-purpose space are very much needed. I'm sure the shelving will work itself out.

Ended public comment and resumed second half of the presentation by the design team after 5 minute recess.

Mr. Tom resumed the presentation which will focus on three components, first colors and finishes, second on lighting and third on furniture. He reiterated that they are in design and these are not all finalized.

Starting with colors and finishes, the lobby /rotunda area will be restored to original character as close as possible. As the board shows (Attachment 9) the historic elements are heavy oak, wall panels, tables and chairs and shelving, the intent is to keep all of this and only refurbish, refinish and clean. The rotunda decorative ceiling will be cleaned and spruced up. Would like to restore as closely as possible to historic design but will be difficult given modern needs, the current plan is service desk will be relocated to original space next to the vestibule/entry area, low browsing shelving will be added in the rotunda and the oak paneling and shelving will be refinished. The book return room and public computers are off to the sides.

Linoleum flooring is planned for the flooring material in earth-tone colors in the lobby, neutral color in children's and adult reading rooms, and medium color in the back public and staff areas (attachment 9 & 10.)

For renderings, the boards show the rotunda layout, with the strong material presence of oak (Attachment 11). For colors (attachment 9) the vision is to stay fairly neutral. In several places where the new meets old, sections of the old exterior will be inside walls and will be visible from outside the building, for this reason plan to wait until after exterior color finalized to select a color for that room.

Currently there are a lot of fluorescents that will be removed. Mr. Tom reviewed the reflective ceiling plan (attachment 12a & b) which shows where the various lighting fixtures will be placed. In the rotunda the plan is to place thin light fixture painted to disappear into the ceiling which will shine most of light down on the floor and some on the ceiling. There will be some highlight lights that will shine on the walls. The focal point will be a reinterpretation of the historic chandelier which will be more energy efficient, meet current lamping standards and custom designed with brass and metal. Historic lights will remain but will be removed and cleaned, re-lamped and remounted.

In the 2 historic reading rooms which currently have florescent fixtures which hang below the trusses, the plan is to place thin light fixtures to hang at same level as bottom of ceiling trusses, painted to blend in with the trusses. These will provide the correct candle-foot lighting to allow someone to select a book from a lower shelf. Originally there were school house shaped fixtures that provided all the light in these rooms. Those were removed. The architects propose to reinterpret those school house fixtures to be placed down the middle of the room. Proposing different fixtures over the soft seating areas in front of the fireplaces, these have not been selected yet but children's will be playful. In the teen room a more playful zig-zag pattern lighting fixture is planned. Rest of building will have very simple lights.

Mr. Tom reviewed the furniture plan (Attachment 13) with the adult furniture plan mostly using the historic reader tables and chairs. These will be refurbished and refinished. A few of the children's original round tables and chairs will also be kept. Proposing at the adult fireplace soft chairs in leather, this is a durable long-lasting material. Looking at the same chair for children's soft-seating area but want to confirm adult and child can sit in it together. In the children's area proposing playful children's pieces, chairs with animal backs and area rug but that are in keeping with the character of the building color-wise, but still playful. For the Teen Area space planning for small groupings of two tables and 6 chairs, options for both soft and hard surfaced chairs are in fun fabrics and a variety of colors.

Public Comments:

1. Patron – Had you considered antique lights that could be refurbished for the chandeliers and school house lights. *Doug Tom – We're trying to achieve LEED Silver rating and need the most efficient lighting available.*

Leather chairs may get penmarked, have you considered washable ultrasuede? Yes.

Kids furniture – Furniture with interesting forms would suit the architecture of the building better than the playful character chairs.

Eames Chair is good looking but uncomfortable.
2. Billy Karp – Did you consider cork, wood, tile or concrete with radiant heat for the flooring? What was the decision process, is it just a matter of cost? *Doug Thom – It's a bit of everything, looked at esthetics and cost. There will be radiant heat under the linoleum.*
3. Roger – Most older public buildings like libraries and schools have quartersawn oak or cork flooring. Linoleum seems out of character with the historic building. Encouraged use of Craftsmen style furniture instead of more modern designs. *Doug Tom – The original flooring was linoleum.*
4. Patron – Not in favor of the soft seating example in the teens area. It looks difficult to move. Teens like to move chairs around to sit next to their friends. Is the new table in children's wing going to be kid's size? Yes.
5. Patron – Hope the exterior lighting will not be bright white lighting.

Would be nice to convert the fireplaces to efficient gas fired fireplaces. On a rainy day it would be great to sit around a fireplace. It is an opportunity to create a real memorable place in this special library. *Doug Tom – We need to keep the fireplaces/chimneys open as air drafts as part of the ventilation in order to meet a LEED Silver rating.*

Hope there will be a return drop box located at the North Branch during the construction.

6. Patron – Will the stencils on the beams remain? Yes.

Children's Tables – recommend slanted table with lip on bottom edge for children's picture book area.

7. Betty Olds – Please don't use proposed soft chair in teen area.

Furniture is not included in the Bond. Money has to be raised by the public.

8. Peter Warfield – Glad the beams are being kept. What about chairs and tables. Are they original to the building. Would be nice to highlight the fireplaces. Leather chair is a nice touch. Angled tables for children have a real charm. *Doug Tom – we believe most of the tables are original. There may be one or two that migrated from other locations that we would not keep..*

9. Barbara Alesandrini – You'll need to provide adequate heating if the service desk is placed near the vestibule/entry area.

10. Roger – Will the triple openings from rotunda to the "holds" room stay? Yes.

Expressed concern about sightlines with the shelves in the adult reading room. *Rachel Macneilly, North Branch Manager – Shelving perpendicular to the windows helps protect books from sunlight damage. Doug Tom – Shelving switched from East side of adult reading room to west side to block less light.*

Hall way behind the hold room seems a waste of space. *This area will also include a community bulletin board and an area for brochures. Skylight about will light the area.*

Board Comments:

1. Trustee Franklin – Plan is absolutely fantastic in every aspect. The level of detail you paid attention to; the artful color combinations; love all the furniture you selected; very well considered, clearly you have thought this through. Presentation was thorough, logical and very inspiring. I'm very excited about the design.
2. Trustee Moore – Work is tremendous. Love the addition, windows in the back and tying in to the windows around the building and lighting. It would really be nice to find a way to use the fireplaces, would like you to explore options.
3. Trustee Burton – Asked about wear ability of the upholstered seating and ability to clean. *Doug Tom – Leather chair is durable. The fabrics come with 100,000 double rub technology. They're for public buildings, very durable.*
4. Chair Kupfer – Thanked community for comments. Commended the team on the process, really taken the time to listen to what people have to say and gone back to the drawing board several times. I think it's terrific, applied expertise and well received.

III. ACTION CALENDAR

A. Proposed FY2011 Berkeley Public Library Mid-Biennial Budget

A copy of the revised budget was provided (attachment 14.)

Director Corbeil reported CPI is 1.7%, more than the 1.5% that was presented at the last meeting but less than the 3.% that was anticipate in June 2009. We're getting closer to closing the structural gap. Changes include: Positive increase in library tax rate. We have brought forth a salary savings rate of 1% (formerly 3%.) This

means we don't have to hold positions vacant as long. This was really important to staff, there is a lot of stress created by holding positions vacant. No reductions in head count. Increased Library Materials and Capital Improvement Project. Lowered the reduction to IT from \$75K to \$55K. Received a \$75,000 gift from the Friends of the Library.

Trustee Moore – This is an excellent budget. Thanks to the staff for their hard work in pulling this together. I really like the accounting of the staff broken out, makes it clear what's being done. It's an excellent budget. Given the circumstances, we're not laying off any people, the city is looking at laying off 75 people. The fact that we are able restore 10% of the library materials fund is excellent.

R10-038 Moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Franklin, to adopt a resolution approving the FY2011 Proposed Mid-Biennial Budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Trustee Henry-Golphin absent.

B. Recommendation to the City Council on the FY2011 Library Tax Rate

R10-039 Moved by Trustee Burton, seconded by Trustee Franklin, to adopt the resolution recommending the Berkeley City Council set the FY2011 tax rate for the Library Services Tax at \$0.1609 (16.09 cents) per square foot for dwelling units and \$0.2434 (24.34 cents) per square foot for industrial, commercial, and institutional buildings. Motion passed unanimously. Trustee Henry-Golphin absent.

IV. AGENDA BUILDING

A. The next meeting will be a Regular Meeting held at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, June 9, 2010 at the South Branch Library, 1901 Russell Street, Berkeley.

- June 9 Regular Meeting
 1. Central Space Planning Update
 2. Social Media Policy
 3. Bookmobile Purchase
 4. Library Foundation Update
- Future agendas:
 1. Local vendors / local hires for Branch Improvement Project
 2. Report of things happening with branch improvement project over the summer

V. ADJOURNMENT

R10-040 Moved by Trustee Burton, seconded by Trustee Franklin, to adjourn the special meeting of the board at 8:30 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. David Coolidge – Subject: RFID
2. Judy Nakadegawa – Subject: Technology