

James L. Hamner Public Library
Board of Directors Meeting
March 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chair Jennifer Harris. Members present were Jill Hames, Hilda Foster, Tom Hayghe, Beatrice Head, Ruth Ashton, Virginia Whitaker, Phyllis Brown, Linda Gallagher, Carol Hix, Mary Ann Griles, Karen Freas, Ruth Ashton, and Gail Geraghty. Also present was Board of Supervisors liaison, Shaun Weyant.

Jennifer called for approval of the January minutes, Carol moved to approve and Ruth seconded.

Friends Report - Louisa Fink reported that there hasn't been much going on with the Friends. They are holding an executive meeting on Zoom next week, and will discuss the fiscal year and the annual meeting typically held in April. The Book Shop remains closed. The Friends are working to get a newsletter to all members.

Corresponding Secretary - Carol shared that she sent a card of encouragement to Becky Russell.

Budget Committee - Carol said that if the library budget is approved, we will be able to hire both a full time and a part time employee, filling a need for a full time program person. Sean Weyant said that the budget hasn't yet been approved.

Evaluation Committee - Tom said that the library director evaluation has been completed.

Strategic Plan Committee - Jill said that two board members are needed to update our plan, and asked for volunteers. Virginia and Karen volunteered to work with Jennifer on this committee.

Library Director's Report - Jill shared the good news that one of the staff members was selected for a scholarship, although they were unfortunately notified after the deadline. She introduced Enteros representative Gil who has prepared a remote presentation of the proposed library addition. He spoke of the following:
Enteros worked to meet our requests for more entry zone space, more meeting space, small group meeting rooms, a multimedia tech room, a teen space, and more staff space. The library entry zone would be relocated on the western side of the building. The proposed flexible programming/media area is about 4,730 sq ft. The adult collections and seating space will be about 4,455 sq ft., the children's collections space will be 2,840 sq. ft, and the young adult/teen space 320 sq ft. This space was designed to house the existing collections as well as proposed new collections. The staff area will be about 2,550 sq. ft. and will be handicapped accessible. Including mechanical, electrical, and operations space, the proposed new building will be just under 19,000 sq. ft., more than double the size of the existing building. Gil said that construction will have a significant impact on the existing building structure.

Gil shared a blueprint of the proposal and said they feel the site is big enough to fit the expansion. The library will be expanded on all sides, but the largest addition will be to the rear of the building. A new HVAC system will be needed, and will be placed on the roof. Roof lines will be interconnected, wrapping around the building. Plenty of natural light will be added; a glass element will add light to the children's area. A lawn area in the back may be used for outdoor events. The parking area will be extended. He said they found a challenge with meeting handicapped accessibility with the lower 60" shelving that Jill had requested. To accommodate our collections, Enteros went with 66" shelving.

One issue we may find with this design is that many sections of the library wouldn't be visible from staff work areas and would make staff monitoring more of a challenge.

Gil said that accommodating the changes we've asked for may require new construction to prove the most cost-effective.

Jennifer thanked Gil for the work he's done, several board members said the plan looked beautiful, and he left the virtual meeting.

Gail said she thought the addition was more extensive than she anticipated. Jennifer said we could negotiate for any changes to the proposed plan. She said we can talk at our May meeting about how we can present it to the board of supervisors.

New Business - Jennifer proposed that we update our committees and committee assignments. The budget committee was changed to include Carol and Tom, who will support Jill with the library budget. The evaluation committee requires no change. Ruth Ashton volunteered to help Jennifer with the nominating committee, and Virginia and Karen volunteered for the strategic plan committee. The facilities and policy committees were dropped, as well as the public relations committee, at least for the time being.

Jennifer asked for questions or comments. Jill spoke about her decision not to purchase a \$4,000 AV system for presenting virtual meetings, due to the high cost.

Ruth moved we adjourn the meeting, and Jennifer seconded. The meeting ended at 8:07.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 pm.