

LIBRARY 21 COMMITTEE
17th Meeting

May 22, 1997
Senior Center

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Nancy B. Woods at 6:35 P.M. in the meeting room of the new Senior Center in Central Square.

Members in attendance:

Nancy B. Woods, Co-Chair
Ruth Butler
Karen Carmean
Ed DeAngelo
John Gintell
Karen Kosko
Andre Meyer
Emily West
Robert Winters
Richard Rossi, Co-Chair
Roger Boothe
Susan Clippinger
Susan Flannery

Co-Chair Woods announced that Co-Chair Richard Rossi and committee member David Szlag would be unable to attend. Copies of a statement from David Szlag were distributed. She briefly reviewed the items on the evening's agenda -

1. Administrative Matters
2. The Program Package
3. Phase IV Issues
4. Public Comments

Depending upon timing and the flow of the meeting, Public Comments may be moved to the middle of the agenda.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Minutes:

April 15th draft minutes were approved subject to the insertion of final paragraphs inadvertently omitted from the Vision Statement

March 18th minutes have been completed and will be mailed.

Meetings/Dates:

Next Library 21 meeting will be Wednesday, June 25,

Peer Review of Program will be July 16th

Penny Johnson of the Worcester Public Library (recommended by

Patience Jackson of the MBLC) has agreed to participate. Tom Jewell of the Waltham Public Library has been invited and we are awaiting his response.

Mr. Margolis, the new BPL Director was suggested as a third professional to invite to take part in the review, but decided against as he is new to the area, heavily scheduled, and coming from libraries of a different scope. In addition, he would likely prove to be a draw in himself, distracting the process from focusing on the Cambridge situation.

Joseph Dionne, Director of the Lawrence Public Library and a participant in last fall's seminar, was suggested, and Susan Flannery will ask him to participate.

Format for the review may be in the form of a "round-table" discussion and a conversation with the committee.

A press conference was also suggested.

Co-Chair Woods informed the committee of "Envision Central Square", a workshop to take place 9:00-1:00 on Saturday, June 14, at the Senior Center, running from 9:00 to noon. This is part of the envisioning and planning for Central Square that has been taking place over the last several years, beginning with an all day brainstorming session four years ago. One element of the workshop will examine the siting of public buildings in the area and committee members are encouraged to attend.

Necessary Conversations:

A list was compiled of the following conversations/discussions that need to take place to wrap up the material for the Phase III report.

1. Businesses
2. How to organize final Phase III report
3. Providing items to attract kids
 - Computer games, comic books, etc.
4. Technology - where does this fit into the report
5. Cafe

THE PROGRAM PACKAGE:

Co-Chair Woods asked the committee to look at the 5 vision statements as revised following the April meeting and indicate if it could be considered that for each of these a consensus had been reached.

In summary it was concluded as follows:

1. Vision - Consensus reached
2. Audience - Consensus reached if revised as indicated in discussion
- Karen Carmean and Emily West to work on revision
3. Cooperation - Consensus reached with indicated revision to be done by Roger Boothe
4. System Structure - Consensus reached
5. Roles - Statement is going in the right direction but need further work
- Ed DeAngelo, Susan Flannery, and John Gintell will revise

Discussion points included:

VISION:

- change wording "city politicians" to "city officials"
- eliminate word "selected" in last sentence of second paragraph

AUDIENCE:

- outreach should be through activities and services, not system configuration - shift this to "system configuration and the programs and services it offers"
- later on, say "reach out and attract" instead of "provide services"
- "local business people" - make more general instead of delineating certain groups while probably overlooking others
- concern with making this too generic
- cut out word "genders"
- "all groups, such as..." or
- "all residents, including ..."

Co-Chair Woods asked Karen Carmean & Emily West to make an attempt at revision during the break, leaving out academic groups and gender.

SYSTEM STRUCTURE:

This section was agreed to meet consensus as it stands, with the May minutes to be corrected to include omitted paragraphs.

COOPERATION:

- expand the wording "city agencies" to city agencies and city organizations"

Roger Boothe will revise the statement as indicated.

ROLES:

- sort the roles with the Primary roles first, etc.
- Main Library roles or Library System roles? if the latter, be more specific in any references to branch roles
- may need to reconcile with decisions to be made during space discussions
- we know what we mean, but would the "man-on-the-street" get our meaning on a first reading
- enlarge statement on effects of technological changes and their effect on roles and the building's accommodation of new and emerging information and communications technology

The roles statement is going in the right direction. The sub-committee (DeAngelo, Flannery, & Gintell) will work on a final revision and bring it back to the committee for a final consensus agreement.

During the roles discussion, Co-Chair Woods welcomed the arrival of City Councillor Triantafillou.

Following a brief break, Karen Carmean and Emily West presented a draft revision of the Audience statement. It was agreed that this was going in the right direction but needed a little further work.

LIBRARY FUNCTIONS/SPACE NEEDS:

Elements from the Cohen report should be consolidated/combined with the community input received by the committee.

A sub-committee to work on this will include Roger Boothe, Emily West, Karen [Carmean or Kosko?], and Andre Meyer.

IDEAS FOR COMMUNICATION OF PHASE III REPORT:

Lack of time precluded discussion of ways to fully educate the public and sell the program package, but ideas presented included:

- A press conference
- A "tabloid" style summary with children's drawings
 - many copies to be printed for mass distribution

- Copies of the full report available for limited distribution
- Public meetings
- Presentation to the City Council
- Peer review session

A Sub-committee to work on the report and funding for its design and printing will be necessary.

PHASE IV ISSUES:

Again, lack of time prevented discussion of this topic as planned. The need for criteria development and a process for looking at sites was briefly mentioned.

Co-Chair Woods said that she would work with Co-Chair Rossi to formulate a plan based on the process and have it in the mail to committee members before the June 25th meeting.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

- Concern was expressed at the references made to developing siting criteria.
- Concern was also expressed over what was felt might be too severe restrictions on stack space
- With all the listing of programs and services, something is needed in the report regarding the number of staff needed to carry out the program described, their training, skills, etc.
- There should be statement somewhere in the report affirming that branch libraries should not be eliminated.

Co-Chair Woods thanked the audience for its patience and adjourned the meeting at 9:13 PM.