

LIBRARY 21 COMMITTEE

12th Meeting

November 20, 1996  
Morse School Cafeteria

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Nancy B. Woods at 6:40 P.M. in the cafeteria of the Morse School.

Members in attendance:

Nancy B. Woods, Co-Chair  
William Barry  
Roger Boothe  
Karen Carmean  
Ed DeAngelo  
John Gintell  
Andre Meyer  
Karen Kosko  
David Szlag  
Emily West  
Robert Winters  
Richard Rossi, Co-Chair  
Susan Clippinger  
Susan Flannery  
Charles Sullivan

Co-Chair Woods asked the members to introduce themselves for the benefit of the audience. She reminded the committee that this would be the final meeting of Phase II, "Casing a Wide Net", and then briefly reviewed the items on the evening's agenda.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Minutes: The minutes of the October 16th meeting were approved with corrections noted for pages 2 and 5. Co-Chair Woods stated that the minutes of the two November meetings will be placed on the web before the next public meeting which will be on Wednesday, January 15, 1997, in the Sakey Lecture Hall of the Main Library.

Co-Chair Woods thanked Emily West who has agreed to lead a work group exploring the library needs of the city's elderly residents.

Karen Carmean is compiling a list of the various "outreach" meetings and committee members are asked to give listings of any such meetings to her or to Nancy Woods. Karen displayed a working draft of a city map with public building sites which may be useful as the committee explores the possibility of sharing space for library services.

Co-Chair Rossi stated that the City Manager and Councillors are very happy with the committee's process to date and pleased with the interim report submitted to the City Council last week..

New Library/Police Station/Capital Projects: Co-Chair Rossi, questioned implications that the city might have to choose between building a library or a police station, and responded that this is not just a matter of the library and police station, but the overall capital needs of the city which are extensive. It's not necessarily an either/or situation, but something to be determined by the political process. In terms of Library 21, it would be best to wrap up the process as quickly as possible and get the project in line for funding.

In further discussion, it was noted that the price estimated for the police station 4 years ago was 11 million which would probably translate to 12.5 million today. The cost of the library was originally thought of as being in the range of 20 million dollars, with the hope that up to 5 million of this could be covered by state grant funds. While there isn't a specific dollar figure limitation on the project, it holds that the higher the cost, the harder it will be to get it done.

The process for library funding will be to have a funding request submitted for the city's capital budget. Mr. Rossi chairs the Capital Budget Committee which evaluates the capital budget funding requests and makes recommendations to the City Manager. The City Manager in turn submits his recommended capital budget to the City Council. Co-Chair Rossi agreed with Co-Chair Woods that it would be a good idea to ask James Maloney, Assistant City Manager for Fiscal Affairs, to attend the January committee meeting and explain funding factors. John Gintell recommended that committee members who are not familiar with it should take a look at the city's Annual Budget which includes both the operating budget and the capital budget and can be very informative and enlightening

Co-Chair Woods read the Library 21 Committee's mission statement to remind the committee and audience of the context for the following items.

TECHNOLOGY WORK GROUP REPORT: John Gintell briefly described the background and role of the Technology Work Group, its process and sources of information. A draft report was distributed and John led the committee through the major elements with the aid of a series of charts.

The need for flexibility in the building and its wiring system is essential in order to be able to accommodate changing developments and needs in technology. In discussion following the report review, a question was raised concerning the use of wireless technology linkage instead of hard wiring the building. This would provide the flexibility for rearranging technology systems within the building without requiring rewiring and would avoid structural problems in the wiring of the old building. It was felt that if the price of this is brought down to a point compatible with that of hard wiring and if there is a good track record of reliability, this should be considered. New developments should be taken advantage of but the committee shouldn't be pioneers of the unproven.

PUBLIC SPACE REPORT: Lisa Peterson distributed a draft public

space inventory for the city covering some 77 buildings. This will need refinement and the addition of buildings under construction and planned. The high school needs to be included and the school information needs updating. There is a need to be able to present this information in a graphic format and to be able to view it by neighborhood. She will be working on an analysis of the information over the next few weeks and would welcome any voluntary assistance especially in massaging the data.

The addition of public parking information was suggested. In response to a question as to other city owned land in addition to the listed buildings and parks, it was stated that no city owned vacant lots were known, although there are the occasional temporary ownerships of property acquired as a result of non-payment of taxes.

#### WORK GROUP UPDATES:

Young Adult Work Group: Ed DeAngelo, Kathryn Carleton, and Nancy Nyhan reported. There have been conversations with the high school principal and others, a survey of activities in other communities, talks with teens. A focus group is being planned at the Rindge and Latin School. Results of the survey of other communities were distributed. There have been talks with school staff on how to coordinate schools with libraries. The group will continue with research in December, working toward a final report.

Public Process Work Group: Karen Carmean, Ted Burton, and John Gintell have been talking to various groups and organizations, having asked to be placed on the agendas of regularly scheduled meetings. They talk for roughly 20 minutes about the Library 21 project and ask for the members' ideas. They would like the names of additional groups to contact and would welcome assistance.

K - 8th Grade Work Group: A "Mini 21" was facilitated for 16 students (3 boys, 13 girls). A print-out will be made available of the comments elicited. Great survey returns have been received from several of the schools and the results will be processed for a report.

#### NEXT MEETING:

Co-Chair Woods asked as a matter of logistics if the next meeting could be held at a location with "real" chairs. Suggestions included The Inn at Harvard, Youville Hospital, and the Main Library. It was decided that the next meeting, Wednesday, January 15, will be held at the Main Library, while looking into other sites for the future.

Co-Chair Wood expressed her own and the Library 21 Committee's appreciation to Lisa Peterson of the City Manager's Office for the valuable assistance she has provided to the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

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