

Main Library Expansion Project

The fifth Design Advisory Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday** evening, **October 22, 2002** at the Citywide Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Avenue. It began at approximately 6:15 pm.

All members were present.

Alan began with a review of the night's agenda and introduced Cliff Gayley, from William Rawn Associates, who presented three new schemes, which had been requested by the public during our last meeting in September.

After briefly reviewing the previously reviewed schemes one through four, Cliff showed the three new alternative massing approaches.

Scheme 5 was shown as a variation of scheme 3, or the "East" scheme with 2-story massing closer to the historic components of the existing building, and a 4-story massing closer to the tennis courts. Drop-off was depicted as a loop close to Broadway with an entrance via Trowbridge and exit by a new curb cut. The parking garage was shown under the ground in front of the existing Library.

Scheme 6 was presented as another variation of scheme 3, with a 3-story mass, instead of the 4-story scheme above, extending more toward Broadway (roughly to the southern edge of the existing Tot Lot. A drop-off loop similar to the one in scheme 5 was shown. The ramp to the parking garage, which was also below grade in front of the existing Library, was shown again between the building and the tennis courts. It was described as looping back under a portion of the building in order to get to the underground garage.

Scheme 7 proposed relocating the existing Library forward, toward Broadway, aligned with the front entry of CRLS. The expansion space would be built behind the existing building with 2-story structures immediately around the stacks and Sakey wing, with a 3-story mass behind that.

The entrance would be straight off Trowbridge, and the drop-off ramp and underground parking would be roughly under the existing footprint of the Tot Lot and on-grade parking lot.

Cliff and Alan asked for reaction and comment from the Committee. They included:

- . A general consensus that scheme 4 was the preferred alternative
- . Any ramp should be hidden as much as possible, and should not be in front of the building; a question was posed for the use of the High School ramp to be a common access point
- . Moving the existing building seems costly, and the scheme itself appears problematic from an operational perspective the way that the 'center' or 'straddling' scheme did
- . Scheme 7 was an intriguing solution, as it would make for a clearer identity for the Library, being closer to Broadway, and would have the least impact on the original building
- . A 4-story approach is overwhelming, diminishes the historic nature of the Library, and is operationally problematic
- . Scheme 6 is too intrusive, cuts park in two, is 'dreadful', but a few folks said that it had potential, and gave a nice frontage to Joan Lorenz Park (JLP)
- . A preference was offered for a compromise between scheme 3 and 5; another suggested a synthesis of the advantages of 3, 4, and 6
- . A question was asked about moving the parking 'off site'
- . One member felt that having the parking garage under the front of the Library would be more destructive to the whole park than having it under JLP

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Public Comments were made;

- . Six people voiced their favor of scheme 7, with most of these folks disliking scheme 4, and two didn't care for 6.
- . One person disliked the grouping of the committee around the models, and complained about the sound - not being able to hear what was being discussed.
- . Walking between the high school and scheme 4 looked to be unsafe
- . One person favored scheme 4, two liked scheme 6

The next Committee meeting was announced to be on Wednesday, the 20th of November, at 6:00 pm. The location had not as yet been confirmed, but was to be at either the Morse or the Tobin School. Notification was to be made as soon as known.

The meeting finished at around 9:00 pm.