

MINUTES

MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 7, 2005

Convened: 4:33 p.m.

Present: Karlen, Keys, Taft, Wallner, Widder, Poulson, Kratsch, J. Olson,
Froistad, Roughen, Dimick

Absent: Falconer

Excused: Palm, Hernandez

Also Present: Bruder, Dederling, Nesbitt, Benno, Grogan, Sawyer, Olson, Lee

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m.

II. EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES FOR RENOVATION OF CENTRAL LIBRARY

Mr. Bruder, Ms. Dederling, and Mr. Nesbitt spent last evening and this morning developing an alternate plan based on the discussion from last night's meeting. They had rough drawings for staff to review.

To reduce costs, they eliminated the third floor addition. The previous plan was for 130,000 sq. ft. They were able to gain 7500 sq. ft. by commandeering the garage space for a public area and stretch out in other areas to come up with 115,000 sq. ft. Each program area would lose a few hundred sq. ft. in this new plan, but would end up with a good building.

The proposal calls for the library to be built out to the corner of Fairchild and Mifflin. It will be much more of a glass box, but not of the magnitude of Overture, but equally open and penetrating. The cost is estimated at \$15-\$18 million without the FF&E. This is a substantial reduction in price as the third floor addition would have added \$9.8 million to the cost.

The first floor would include a radically changed circulation area utilizing self-check machines and the bookdrop for 95% of materials returned. Also included on this floor would be the youth services area, popular fiction and AV items, Friendship and reduced cafe. An "action" library will take the place of the teen center.

The lower level would contain the auditorium, storage areas, LINK functions and Madison collection, periodicals and meeting rooms. There would be a lot of light making it possible to have plants and create the “winter garden” effect/ There would be windows along the street. Computers and lounge furniture would be included in a garden environment. Loading/delivery, TS, DCLS, maintenance, printshop and mechanicals will also occupy this level. There was some concern about the sizing of the loading area. Mr. Bruder was confident it could be reworked to allow sufficient space for the delivery trucks.

The second floor would have space to house the nonfiction collection, lounge seating/ study tables and room, computers, training area, reading room, staff lunch room, board meeting room and administrative staff areas in an open landscape.

Staff would use public elevators to move materials around. This is more functional and responsible to costs and changes staff into more sociable beings as they will be representing the library in a public setting. There will be service help points on all floors.

It’s been determined that it will be much more cost effective to demolish interior walls and start with a clean slate. This can probably be done for less than \$80,000 and be completed in 4-8 weeks.

The exterior would be composed of green slate, glass and wood.

Mr. Bruder proposed adding a third floor composed of one and two-story condo units around a garden core. This would be a great opportunity for the library to pay for 1/3 to 1/2 of the cost of the renovation. He thought the condos could be priced between \$300,000 and \$1,000,000 The exterior would be green copper. This is an intriguing idea. The downside, however, is that there would be no onsite parking—spaces would have to be leased from the city ramp; there would be stiff competition with the many condos in the downtown area already, and most of all, library staff and board are not developers. For a lesser payoff, we could consider selling the air rights to a developer.

Mr. Bruder would be willing to come back to Madison to go out with the fund development chair and meet with various groups or prospects to sell them on the plan.

The Committee requested that Mr. Bruder provide us with cost estimates for his help with fund raising, renderings, a model of the plan, a materials board and more detailed schematics.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.