

Forest Park Public Library  
Building Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2015

Trudy Roznos called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Trustees present: Karen Childs, Trudy Roznos, Jenny Seay, Emily Victorson

Staff present: Rodger Brayden, Maureen Sill      Absent: Regina Townsend

Guests present: Anders Dahlgren, George Lawson

Karen Childs made a motion to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Trudy Roznos, and it passed.

Emily Victorson made a motion to approve the 1-21-15 minutes. This was seconded by Rodger Brayden, and it passed.

George Lawson, of Library Planning, joined us via Skype to give us a presentation. He first spoke about preparing a Strategic Plan that would inform the rehab/new building thinking. He said that focus groups didn't usually reveal new information, but larger community forums—if they are advertised widely—can produce more info. He suggested sticking to one hour, inviting library users, holding meetings at different times of day, and having mixed groups since hearing each other's comments can trigger more.

He then talked about assessing what trends we see in the changing library world since that will affect our planning. The library is a gateway to information and is also where we come together to share and create information. A question he posed is: What could we be providing if we weren't limited by our present building? Start with the services needed. If we go with a new building, some questions are where would it be built, what would it look like, costs, what would we do with the old building? If we do a major rehab or a new building, we can expect to see an increase of 35 to 50% in patron traffic.

Mr. Lawson has done 450 projects in 14 states over 22 years. He has done repeat business for libraries, designing branches. He's had good feedback from architects who say his plans are easy to read and understand. His best project is the Cedar Rapids Public Library.

After the Skype session ended, Anders Dahlgren, of Library Planning Associates, joined us to

give us a presentation. He covered some of the same topics, talking about focus groups, cost of the project. His perspective was to look at our building as a blank slate, looking at the square footage of the building and asking how we would like to “spend” the space. At one of his projects, the Barrington Public Library, they had many things they wanted to provide, but had to retain the same footprint. As a result, they had to reduce their collection by 15%, something librarians and trustees might not want to consider.

He mentioned that we might want to look into raised floors as a way of integrating all the wiring necessary for computers and such, without having to pull wires through the floors and columns, etc. Might keep the space more open and be easier access for later repairs or changes.

After his presentation, Mr. Dahlgren left the meeting, and a discussion ensued regarding the two presentations. Rodger then made a motion to recommend to the Board that we pursue a contract with Library Planning Associates. This was seconded by Emily and it passed.

Maureen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31pm. This was seconded by Trudy and it passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Childs