

**Forest Park Public Library
Special Project Committee Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2017
Austin Meeting Room, 6:00 PM**

Opening of Meeting

1. Emily Victorson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Roll call: members present: Karen Childs, Emily Victorson, Kevin Hibbitts Lin Beribak (Lin Beribak left the meeting at 7:05), Pilar Shaker, Regina Townsend, Deb Harris, Alicia Hammond, Skye Lavin, Claudia Corzine, Susan Farnum
Also present: Soma Roy, Siemens
3. Lin Beribak made a motion to approve the agenda for the August 10, 2017 meeting, as submitted. Karen Childs seconded the motion and it carried.
4. Public Comment (Recognition of Guests and Visitors): Soma Roy

Approval of minutes: Pilar Shaker made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 2nd meeting as submitted, Deb Harris seconded the motion and it carried.

New Business

- A. Soma Roy presented a 30 minute slide show on Siemens' strategic partnerships with libraries and schools. Ms. Roy shared that Siemens would lead the proposed building project and invest back into the library as a partner in programming. Ms. Roy gave some examples of partnerships that Siemens has made with other libraries and schools. Emily Victorson expressed concern that it may be too early in our process to spend much time on discussing this type of partnership because the committee isn't yet sure what type of project we will be embarking on. Pilar Shaker also expressed concern about the additional steps this type of partnership might entail.
- B. The Committee reviewed and discussed the Needs Assessment that was done in 2015. It was concluded that, while there were components of the assessment that missed the mark in terms of what the Committee might want in a building redesign, there was no need to start again with a new assessment.

Old Business

- A. Pilar Shaker shared that Michael C. Barnes of Wight & Company had taken the building's blue prints to his engineering team for review at no cost. The team reported that the existing building looks to be fit for a third floor build-out if that's what the Committee determines to be the best course of action.

- B. Pilar Shaker shared the building needs and maintenance list that was created by prior Director Rodger Brayden and that she has added to and amended. One of the existing concerns on the list is the building's windows which are in need of repair/replacement. Kevin Hibbitts shared that the windows may be able to be re-sealed and repaired at a much lower cost than replacement.
- C. Committee members shared their collected insights from similar past committees and after having reevaluating current needs and conditions. Emily Victorson stressed how important it will be to evaluate and try to address parking issues. The committee discussed alternatives to parking solutions like creating a book drop on the South side of town for residents who live further away and the possibility of pop-up library locations or partnerships with other community entities like the park district for shared spaces. Regina Townsend expressed the need for a separate space for older teens and her desire to have an office that is adjacent to the teen room area. Susan Farnum shared that Youth Services staff would also love to have outdoor programming spaces and additional study rooms along with more child friendly shelving and age appropriate furnishings. Alicia Hammond echoed the need for additional flexible programming spaces and brighter more flexible main floor spaces. Pilar Shaker shared a desire for modular public service desks that can be reconfigured and moved as necessary. Skye Lavin expressed a desire for additional study rooms and a computer lab, along with a general desire for brighter more open areas and flexible shelving. All staff present reiterated the need for staff offices and updated staff spaces. Deb Harris shared that she thought it was unfortunate that the staff area on the main floor occupied one of the brightest and most attractive corners of the library and thinks that that space should be prioritized for patrons rather than staff.
- D. Pilar Shaker shared a possible community member participant but this person was a prior board member and the committee thought that it would be better to have someone who was less tied to the board so that their opinion was more neutral. Kevin Hibbitts had some thoughts on possible people and offered to look into it.

Adjournment

Emily Victorson moved to adjourn at 8:35, the motion was seconded by Regina Townsend and it carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Pilar Shaker, Secretary