

Minutes

Members Present: Black, Cornillaud, Maunder, McCall, Thompson, Wisinski, Zahrfeld

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Hupp, Director

Guests: Rita Brigham, Donna and Tina Bullock, Nadine Cloutier, John Ellis, Don and Julie Hill, Ray Hoppe, Mark and Kathi Horning, Kris Karol, Phil Krahn, Dick and Barbara Krueger, Karen Metz, Chris Peterson, Dave Riggs, Kathy Smolinski

I. Call To Order/ Roll Call

President Wisinski called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. in the Community Room of the Cromaine District Library

II. Approval of Agenda.

III. Short History of Strategic Plan process. Karen Wisinski

Wisinski briefly summarized the steps taken so far in developing the strategic plan, beginning with board workshops on the mission statement and core values document. The Task Force meetings, set up by the Planning Committee, took place this fall and led to the recommendations presently before the board.

Planning Process History

IV. Presentation by Cornillaud

Cornillaud addressed his concerns about format and definitions via a PowerPoint presentation. Since time was short, Wisinski asked him to email the board with his proposed changes so that discussion of the recommendations could begin.

Plan Format

V. Recommendation to Move Library Location

Wisinski asked each trustee to express his/her opinion.

Wisinski: The board's first priority is to make sure that the library serves the community effectively which it is not doing now. The library needs a building which will be large enough to be useful for 20 years, with the ability to expand beyond 20 years, plus improved visibility and accessibility. In 2000 the space-needs assessment projected a population of 24,000 in 2020; it is now approximately 27,000. The study recommended a 41,000-46,000 square foot building on more than four acres. The space available in the Village, 2 acres, is too small for the size building needed and the site lacks the visibility to bring in new users. The Crossroads Branch experience has shown how important visibility is in attracting new users. The emotional connection is very well understood. The Task Force on space, after reviewing the studies which have been done, recommended a new location and Wisinski agrees.

Library Location Recommendation

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Black: Agreed with Wisinski. Crossroads has showed the value of visibility. We need to look for a location which will meet the needs identified by the studies.

Maunder: Noted when she joined the board she felt the library should stay in the Village. However, it is now clear that the library cannot acquire the property needed. Traffic data shows that only about 750 cars pass the library a day vs. 14,000 going through the Mm-59 / US-23 intersection. Studies show that library use is tied to being in a convenient location. The board's responsibility is to find a location where community use of the library will be maximized.

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Zahrfield: There is a long history of community attachment to the library ; however, the board has to look to the future. The issue is more than just a building. Not sure if the library should be in the village or somewhere else. Perhaps there should be several locations.

Thompson: Is the "oldest" member of the board and a staunch supporter of staying in the village. ~~To move would be to lose community heritage.~~ Doesn't believe a 45,000 s.f. building is needed. Feels the library is part of why people move to here. It doesn't matter if the library is small, people feel good when they come through the door.

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Cornillaud: The library is a trustee's primary responsibility, not the community. there is a need for more space if the library is to carry out its mission. He asked about studies on the importance of library location and if location trumps community history.

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VI. Call to Public

Call to Public

Wisinski called on members of the public who had filled out comment cards.

Ellis: It is a mistake to think that keeping the library in the village is only a matter of sentiment. The context of the library location provides the community with a sense of identity. The library location should not be tied to "retail" values, which a location on M-59 implies.

Hill: Adamantly opposed to locating the library outside the village. Any such move will be killed by the voters and she will actively campaign against such a move.

Horning, Mark: Said that the library's presence was essential to the life of the village and preserving the community heritage.

Horning, Kathi: The library is ignoring the model showing a 31,000 s.f. building on its village property. Consultants have been hired and changed and surveys manipulated to get the answers the board wants.

Krueger, Barbara: The library could have reused the '21' building. In the future everyone will have computers at home so a larger library is not really needed.

Smolinski, Kathy: The present building is fine. Building a new one is a waste of taxpayer dollars.

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Peterson, Chris: The library should send library cards to every taxpayer; this would increase use. A bookmobile would be better. Cromaine was a gift to the community and shouldn't be thrown away.

Krueger, Dick: There has been no discussion about what will be abandoning the present building.

Krahn, Phil: Harked back to the issue of becoming a district library and separating from the school district. There was a lot of opposition then but no one complains now. Recognizes the importance of community history. Would support whatever the decision is.

Bullock, Tina: Resident for 9 years. Gets the impression it is all or nothing. Why isn't the 31,000 s.f. expansion being pursued?

David Riggs: Concerned about the financial implications of building and operating a larger building.

VII. Wisinski thanked everyone for their comments and adjourned the workshop at 12:10 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted, Sharon W. Hupp, RECORDING SECRETARY

Documents distributed to the Board for/at this meeting

- Strategic Plan, 1007-2010: Goals, Strategies and Action Steps (Draft)
- Summary of Space Needs Exploration
- Changes in Activities, FY2000 to FY2006
- Library District Growth, 1995 -2006. Library District Age Distribution, 2000 - 2030