

**MINUTES
AD HOC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

MAY 4, 2020

The Ad Hoc Library Development Board meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Friederichs at 6:15 p.m. Members present in person were Kayla Loesch, Megan Brick, Alicia LaBeau, City Council Member, Ann Friederichs, and Belinda Ludwig, Treasurer/Acting City Administrator. Also present via Zoom were: Beth Voss, Joan Nevitt, Kateri Gruber, Library Services Coordinator; Rachel Thomas, GRRL Representative; and Pat Hanson, Advisory Member.

Motion was made by Friederichs to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2020 Ad Hoc Library Development Board. Seconded by Loesch and unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Bolton and Menk, Inc., the City's Engineer drew up a rough proposal on preliminary costs for different scenarios at the old Shopko building and current City buildings with regard to the Library, City Hall and the Liquor Store. The Board discussed the different options. Expanding at the current Library location would be costly due to roof issues. Costs were similar to move the Library to either the current City Hall location or the old Shopko building with the main difference being there would be 1,000 extra square feet available at the old Shopko location and there is the possibility of revenue from the sale of the current City Hall if it is empty. There is also a sizeable donation available if the Library moves to the old Shopko location.

SURVEY RESULTS

There was a total of 217 survey results which were very balanced as far as staying downtown or moving out to the Shopko location. Some of the comments that were made included:

- Needing more parking
- Safer location
- More space
- Easily accessed by everyone in the community
- Go big or don't do it at all
- Don't raise taxes

The general consensus from the survey was that usage does not seem to be based on the location of the library. The Great River Regional Library also wants to point out that just because we get a bigger library is not necessarily an increase in additional open hours. It takes years of showing higher usage to acquire more open hours.

PROS AND CONS

Library at current City Hall location:

Pros:

- 1 less empty building downtown
- Offer more parking than current location
- Access for elementary/daycare fieldtrips
- Not shared with Liquor Store
- Safer than current location
- Already has a conference room
- Sale of old Library building
- Expand Friends of Library group
- Might be enticing for new residents

Cons:

- Limited parking
- Smaller than Shopko building
- Limitations to wish list
- Farther away from middle/high school

Library at old Shopko building:

Pros:

- Parking
- Easier to visualize
- More space
- Room for outside activities
- Somewhere for parents/siblings to go during
- Sports events/practices
- Added revenue in donations/sale of buildings
- More visible
- More traffic
- 1 location for all City entities
- Partnering with township and school
- City owned-more control over neighbors
- Better outside security lighting
- Expand Friends of the Library group
- Might be enticing for new residents

Cons:

- Move away from an area where it's harder for someone to go to
- Liquor and library together
- Appearance of lack of concern for downtown

Stay at current location and do nothing:

Pros:

- Financial-no raising of taxes
- Easy to stay "as is"

- Access for certain population
- Access for elementary
- Community Ed & Green Roof already offer
- A lot of programs

Cons:

- No expansion
- Lack of parking
- Lack of safe parking
- People feel location is unsafe
- Can't increase programming
- Decline in usage
- Need 4,000 – 6,000 square feet per GRRL
- Can't offer space for growth and/or programs
- Takes parking away from other businesses

PAYNESVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT GRANT FOR 501C EXPENSES

Hanson stated that she doesn't have anything new to report with the endowment grant.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Hanson stated that the Friends of the Library had a meeting on April 28th. They elected officers and reviewed the bylaws so they can register for a federal ID number and start the process of a 501C.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

There was a vote taken and of the 7 voting members it was 5 votes in favor of moving the Library to the old Shopko location and 2 votes in favor of moving the Library to the current City Hall location. Out of the advisory members there was 1 in favor of moving to the old Shopko location and the others did not have a recommendation. Comments included:

- Shopko building has the greatest opportunity for expansion
- Would prefer the City own the building and not pay rent
- Move City Hall and Liquor Store to the location as they are also out of space
- Concerns with who the City would sell the current City Hall building to and that it does not become a storage building
- Address how all residents can get to the library
- Any location change needs to depend on the Friends of the Library group being active and fundraising for the project. Included is an outline for the Friends of the Library group to consider:

A Friends of the Paynesville Library will be a non-profit, charitable organization of citizens who share a passionate commitment for a strong library system.

The mission of the Friends group:

To support the library through volunteerism, by recommending and developing library services for the community and fundraising.

Volunteer Opportunities Like:
Book sales to raise money
Program planning for all ages
Author events
Book clubs

With the vote taken, this recommendation will be put on the May 11th City Council agenda. There is no reason for additional Ad Hoc Library Board meetings at this time as a recommendation has been forwarded to the City Council for action.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.