

Deerfield Public Library Board of Trustees
Special Meeting minutes
July 11, 2009

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 am. Present: Board members: President Ken Abosch, Mary Courtney, Marla Bark Dembitz, Sunday Mueller, Jeff Rivlin, and Ron Simon. Staff: Library Director Mary Pergander.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No guests addressed the board.

3. DISCUSSION OF ARCHITECT'S REPORT

Mr. Abosch clarified that today's specific topics are: Friend/Focus group follow-up meeting, Deerfield Area Historical Society interests, newsletter content, newspaper story feedback, next steps, funding, and feedback from quadrant leaders.

Ms. Pergander gave a summary of her presentation of the architect report to quadrant leaders, and the discussion that ensued. Ms. Mueller noted that we may have an opportunity to create a mutually agreeable solution for the parking, traffic and pedestrian safety issues in this quadrant.

Mr. Rivlin requested that the architects prepare an estimate of the cost to build a new building for comparison with the anticipated costs of the remodel and expansion, as part of our due diligence. Ms. Pergander will make this request to the architects.

To further explore the needs for funding and funding options, an ad hoc funding committee will be formed with the same members as the Finance Committee. An August meeting is anticipated but no date set. Mr. Rivlin will share the name of an outside expert in these matters, and Ms. Pergander will seek recommendations from our lawyer, architects, and other sources.

Mr. Abosch is interested in meeting with the Mayor and also the President of the Park District Board. Ms. Pergander will help make arrangements. Ms. Pergander will speak with Kent Street about meeting with the Village Planning department.

Mr. Abosch asked if any board members had received any feedback from the public about the newspaper article regarding the architect report discussion. No one has received any feedback, questions or comments. To assist board members in addressing future questions, Ms. Pergander will work with Ms. Kleckner to create talking points about why less space is required than an earlier project recommended, what the cost might be, funding options, and so on, for board members to review.

A special update session will be held for the members of the recent focus groups, as well as members of our Friends group. The proposed dates are July 22, 29, or 30. There will be only one session. Mr. Rivlin and Ms. Courtney will be present. Ms. Pergander will make the presentation, based on the report summary and her previous presentations to staff and quadrant leaders.

For the newsletter, Ms. Pergander and Ms. Kleckner will draft an article for Ms. Courtney. This same information will also be placed on the home page of our web site.

It was agreed that it is premature to indicate specific space in the remodeling plans for the Deerfield Area Historical Society or any other specific group or similar usage. To reduce confusion and to allow more time to develop our plans further, the architects will be asked to revise the proposed space plan to reflect this.

Mr. Abosch observed that the steps required to execute the project will require a lot of board member personal time, and he requested that a discussion of this commitment be placed on a future agenda.

There was also the suggestion that board members obtain nice polo shirts with the library logo to identify them for events such as the parade, Farmer's Market, and other events they attend as representatives of the board.

There will be a presentation of the architect report to the general public in September. Suggested dates include September 15, 17, or 22 at 7 pm. Due to the expected interest and potentially sizable crowd, Ms. Pergander will see if there will be space at the Patty Turner Senior Center for the session. All board members will try to attend, and we will ask the architect(s) to also be present. The date and time will be featured in the next library newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

Ron Simon, Board Secretary