

Dudley Community Advisory Committee Meeting

May 9, 2017 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Dudley Branch Library

Meeting began with an introduction from Priscilla Foley, Director of Neighborhood Services. She gave a quick rundown of the agenda that gives an update from several other city agencies.

In attendance: Various BPL Dept. Heads and staff, Tricia Lyons, Director of PFD and staff, Lara Merida and staff from BPDA, Patrick Hoey from BTM, Members of the Arts Commission, Rep. Byron Rushing (also Trustee of BPL), Congressman Capuano's aide, Councilor Pressley's aide, Josh McFadden Roxbury ONS Coordinator, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, and over 40 patrons.

1. Recap of previous meetings from Jonathan Evans, Architect from UTILE.
 - Reviewed goals.
 - Reviewed Existing plans
 - Went over the organizational diagrams
 - Any key access points, new entrance
 - Potential locations of where art can go.
 - Program plans, (community room, African American Collection, computer area, Teen area, children's rooms, back of house offices (2nd floor

***Question:** Collections

Answer: Laura answered not defined working with staff to determine the collection, will be combination of existing collection along with new

***Question:** How will you define the spaces between Children and teens?

Answer: Look at furniture, shelving layout, Low walls, and acoustic resolutions for sound.

*** Question:** will there be space for community chess?

Answer: Yes, incorporated in plan inside and outside.

*** Question:** Rep Rushing asked if the stairs can move, have the ramp in front... parents with strollers who attend regularly. Stairs were never there before.

Answer: We will take this under advisement

***Question:** There is only two trees, a lot of concrete. Any softening up the space?

Answer: Yes, you only see two trees in this picture, but also will have raised beds, planters.

***Question:** How far is the entrance to the street, parents do drop off and far from entrance.

Answer: 25 feet Parents will be able to drop off on side. Pat Hoey said the plan shows where there is parking, close drop off/pick up for families and disabled. Working on regulating it to see if they can accommodate close proximity.

***Comment:** The public space used for general conversation, chess locations... looking at the new drawings, the public space that has always been actively used, it appears to be gone.

Answer: Jonathon explained there are fixed seating on side, chess tables on front and side but a “stage” for farmer’s market type opportunities.

Pat Hoey also said explained the Public Space that is reclaimed space from BTM work to make the plaza larger.

***Comment:** Patron said concern is using the feasible outside space, should expand the building... need to anticipate the future, allow for growth, where libraries are real resource not changing all together but something that will encourage older and younger students to use the place. I see all this concrete, but thinks the library space is limited due to large space outside.

Answer: Will take under advisement, but Jonathon also stated having a welcoming space outside was important to the community.

***Comment:** JP library has glass front, this “plan is not welcoming, doesn’t say, come on in read a book”, it is very institutional looking.

Answer: Thank you for your comments.

***Comment:** Looking at the renderings, we don’t want it to look like the police station, or house of corrections. How do we make this place look very inviting? He said it is different, nice place for people to lounge, but maybe it is too much outside space?

Answer: Thank you for your comments we will take that under advisement

Percent for Art Program.

- Cara/Arts and Culture and Chris from Arts Commission
- Boston Arts Commission, independent board within the Mayor, maintain collection in city.
- Reviewed the Public Art Vision
- Explained the Percent of Art Program. (1% of city’s borrowing budget used for art project)
- FY18/Guidelines reviewed.
- Timeline (explained it is a long process)

- Fall 2017, meet with community and ask questions, develop community advisory panel, Draft RFP for local artists, RFP is released, artist selected, design and dev. And Art work installed

***Question:** Sarah Anne Shaw asked0 only one artist selected?

Answer: Yes. (Ms. Shaw seemed upset only one)

***Question:** Rep Rushing, asked if we can select artist or artists early to help develop appropriate art for the building and building it into the building.

Answer: Yes, that is what we are trying to do here. We started pilot program at Boling Building, let's engage with community, use the space... area was awkward, gave to the artist with feedback, they took it back to landscape design and changed the plan during the iterative stage of construction.

***Question:** 2 part question... Piggy back on Byron's question. Looking at the renderings, it seems too late for the artwork to be built in. I don't see a real timeline so the artist concept can be considered during that.

Asked if we can fast forward on this process so an artist can be selected in next couple months and not at the end of the year.

2nd, the piece over circulation desk, no one knew who it was. Must relocate that works of Carlos Byron in the library. Restoration needs to take place. Another one is Walker____ needs to be included. As well as an outside piece, it was an iconic marker for the library needs to be put back in the outside, it is part of the pair outside the courthouse. We need to (as the keepers) ask for them to be put back in space and honor the artist who commissioned to do it specifically for this space.

Answer: Thank you, we will look into this.

***Comment:** Rep Rushing stated it would be helpful to have the art schedule next to the project schedule at future meetings and stated "don't take off the summer!"

Answer: We should be able to collapse those two schedules for the next meeting.

***Comment:** What vegetation are you including to soften "the bunker" Whole lot of concrete, need some softness?

Answer: raised planter beds, trees, and planters will be added.

Architect: tried to earmark and place walls in entrance reserved for Art.

Boston Transportation Department/Pat Hoey

- Parallel project to the library. It has been ongoing for some time, seems like forever, have contract and design team on board for next 12 months and looking to get through design for next 12 months.
- Scope of work: reviewed the area that is in the area, 2 years in making, picked up design with community and city. Currently refining our 25% drawings.
- Schedule: traffic is big part of project, stakeholder meetings are ongoing, larger community meeting after labor day, continuing coordination with Dudley BPL, Planned development projects (private and public), Gourdin Park, Malcom X cycle Track, MBTA,
- Funded at 9 million for the construction.
- Complete Final design, January 2018 (hopeful)
- Discussed MBTA access routes. Traffic flow, parking, pedestrian, bicycle, and streetscape
- Brought up needs for parking accessibility near front door, also need for delivery of books with cub cut.

***Question:** Any spaces reserved for staff?

Answer: No, we can't reserve public spaces for library staff

***Question:** Could a part of the old police station be cut out for reserved parking> will it be developed.

Answer: The police station next door will follow guidelines set now. However, no plans made just yet on that space.

***Question:** Will there be any bike racks?

Answer: Yes all along Warren, Washington Street.

Deputy Director of Community Planning at BPDA/Lara Merida

- Discussed overview of the master plan that looked at all publicly owned parcels in Dudley Square in 2004.
- Discuss with community where they are located and showed diagrams along with what can be developed, etc.
- Considering each proposal, is it the best option? Does it include affordable housing, etc...
- The old B2 police station.... Haven't quite gotten to the design process, but discuss usage. They referred to it as Dudley Commercial (Mixed use)
- Reviewed Timeline, just getting through what we want for uses and how to subsidize them.
- Hoping to have something for RFP's in late fall.

- Next Meeting is Monday 15th at 5:30 at Dudley BPL.

*Question: Can you offer refreshments so people can come and offer their opinions and thoughts on things at your meetings?

Answer: Unfortunately, we can't. We just don't have the funds to offer this. However, would welcome help to assist with this.

Boston Public Library/David Leonard/BPL

- Where we are in project, what's next, are we answering questions well enough.
- Excited to hear in Percent to Art, of 6 of them-2 of them are at libraries
- Thanked the community and staff from other city agencies.
- Stated we are at a point where input is critical to give renovated library that is responsive of your needs.
- Stated "This is your library, we are just the custodians of it." We want to be proud of it as well.
- Schedule: Beginning to wrap up the design process end of this year.
- Mentioned the Mayor's budget
- Stated our goal is to take tonight's feedback and reiterate the design and finish budgetary conversations to make sure everything works and in fall to begin the construction phase.
- Stated that we would need to have contractors on board to feasibly do this in fall, so may be thinking of a staggered start.
- Parker Hill is slated for critical repairs and a logical choice some to use,
- Unprecedented to have 2 branches overlapping on closure, so doing best to consider what is best for this area overall at this time.
- Reiterated importance of filling out survey to understand the importance of the patrons wants. Can't do every program, this will help to consider which ones we look at doing.
- Have outlined schedule, looks at closure or partial closure in the fall. There will be one more meeting in design phase based on tonight.

Eamon Shelton, Director of Operations stated to clarify two more meetings, in June hoping to have a construction meeting and one when they send out the advertising bidding process.

*Question: Regarding the survey. Will I be able to access this if I didn't attend tonight?

Answer: Yes, we will leave here with the staff here at the branch for frequent users to fill out as well.

***Comment:** Patron, feels it is imperative to offer temporary services.

Answer: When we offer temp services, we won't be able to offer everything, but want to look at the survey and base the services around it.

***Comment:** David Vieira, stated should have someone to represent the impaired. Little things make difference of the use of the buildings. Such as voice activated elevators, ensuring there are not hidden spots that cause harm to impaired (gave ex. of outlets under rug, causing bump)

Answer: Thank you for your comments, we have to pass inspections for things like the elevator and voice recognition is not required, but we can certainly take that under advisement.

***Comment:** Candelaria: Have a few questions, before the library is closed, the branch has had to close for flooding. How are you handling the problem? Also, re: Circulation, in relations to African American collections please clarify the number. And third, another community center will be closing in this area, Vine Street community center. For all to be happening in this area is terrible with overlap.

Answer: This is why this is different scenario, many outside factors. We don't want to delay due to another delay. Want to figure out how to optimally operate. I also heard about the RCC renovations, however, they are fully operating within in different location. There are some other factors that need to be aware of, and we can do better and we will.

Eamon re: flooding, Dudley has had 3 closings. I am not aware of any of these issues happening prior except in the past year. We are working with Water and Sewerage to see if they have done anything to affect this building and also at the State level, could this caused from something they are treating the water will. We are hopeful we will have resolution soon.

Laura re: Circulation, answered she misspoke, there are 1500 in collection (Candelaria said it is inadequate)

***Comment/Question:** Veteran named Allen Curry asked if we are providing services in the space for veterans?

Answer: Thanked him for his service and suggested he speak with Priscilla Foley and Branch librarian Allen Knight. We welcome his input on what we could do.

***Question:** Sarah Anne asked what are the dates when Parker hill will closed and dates when Dudley will be closed.

Answer: Parker Hill scheduled to close on June 30th. It will be under construction this summer, it is a one year duration project in its entirety, includes contingencies as well. July to June 2018.

Dudley, according to schedule construction in November. The duration is 18 months for construction but 2 years for breakdown. We are not ready to say whether we will be closed in October or November. Will be open in summer.

***Question:** Mimi Jones, question based on schedule. Says on diagram mid-November, does this include preparation breakdown?

Answer: Eamon: typically takes about a month. Not sure what beginning of construction looks like, activity will begin in November, but we don't have a closure date today.

She asked if it was feasible to plan events in October at the Branch.

Answer: David explained important to know that know while planning this, suggested a conversation outside of the meeting to determine if feasible.

David stated: Trying to minimize the time when Parker Hill and Dudley being closed and trying to minimize the time of overlap.

***Question:** Roofing? Will it have slate roofing? Will there be a better option that is best for long term?

Answer: Architect: looking for different options, and still considering lots of options.

***Question:** Can we look at having a "Green" roof?

Answer: David, we can take under advisement, but need to look at costs.

***Comment:** Creativity needs to be considered... ex. Grove Hall- temp space was put in place to remedy. Could have storefront libraries.... There is a lot of room for creativity to keep library services going.

Answer: That is great suggestion. We are open to options. We want all of the dollars to get to the library itself.

***Comment:** BPS has used temp spaces as well. Could spread out services in different spaces. There are no notes online of previous meetings. Hope this meeting will reflect notes/and presentation. At meeting 5, what will happen?

Answer: At the last meeting we decided we would use this meeting for feedback on the outside. At the next meeting we are looking for feedback to inside.

Question: So is it possible the outside plans may change?

Answer: It will definitely evolve.

***Question:** Will temp services come out of the renovation budget?

Answer: We try to make the costs minimal for temp services, the construction budget does not include temporary services.

***Comment:** Anyone concerned about space to offer programs, poetry readings, etc... we welcome you to the Berwick Building. His name was Steven Johnson, from the inner city sanctuary located on 2nd floor of the Berwick Building. He stated that his church, the Elliott

Congregational Church has a large space that hasn't been used in a long time and is hopeful to offer some space and lift the weight.

Answer: Thank you Mr. Johnson.

***Comment:** David Vieira, looking at operating costs, will we consider putting solar panels?

Answer: It is very expensive for initial cost, takes 30 years to payoff. Every dollar spent has to be balanced with all the other components of the library.

***Comment:** It began to get inaudible as the group started to leave, but a patron discussed her concerns over the environment changes and health issues that result.

Answer: David thanked her and encouraged those to participate in Boston 2030 process.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. and David said he would stay to answer any questions that anyone may have that they didn't have a chance to ask. BTD provided some hard copies of their reports to anyone interested in them.

Bay State Banner attended and recorded some of the meeting.

Patron Surveys were distributed to each attending the meeting. They asked patrons to prioritize their preference for branch services.