

# MEETING MINUTES

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Project Name: ADAMS STREET BRANCH LIBRARY STUDY  
NADAAA Project No: 1603  
Location: ADAMS STREET BRANCH LIBRARY, 690 Adams Street  
Date: 09/20/16  
Time: 6:00pm  
Attendance:

David Cotter (ONS)	
Gert Thorn (PFD)	Katie Faulkner (NADAAA)
Alistair Lucks (PFD)	Amin Tadj (NADAAA)
Michael Colford (BPL)	
Eamon Shelton (BPL)	
Alison Ford (BPL)	
Priscilla Foley (BPL)	
Kate Brown (Adams Street Branch)	
Joan Polimou	Helena Zubrin
Mary O'Brien	Mary Phelan
Kathy Costello	Louise MacLennon - Mann
Madeline Cahill	Trish Gallagher
Joanne Tranford	Grace Hebard
Christine Whittemore	Maureen McKinnon
Kathy Sedor	Tia Feuerstein
Mary Linn	

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## I. Schedule and Project Goals

- Alistair Lucks presents the updated project schedule and projects goals
- The next CAC meeting is targeted for mid-December with agenda to include a final review of program and concepts
- This Feasibility Study is targeted for completion by the end of the year; there will be a Public Meeting to present findings (likely early 2017)

## II. Existing Conditions: Key Findings

- NADAAA presented a summary of findings from design team's review of existing conditions:
  - Site: Adams Street neighborhood can support on-street parking; it is not anticipated that there will be a parking lot on site
  - Landscape: Ideal siting with green space and front door at sidewalk
  - Infrastructure: All essential systems require upgrade and/or replacement
  - Accessibility: Full code compliance will be required
  - Interior: Sightlines to be improved so that staff can see patrons and other staff
  - Computer/IT: Insufficient storage, insufficient technology
- NADAAA discussed current Adams Branch Library within context of the Boston Public Library Compass (strategic plan)

## III. Site Analysis

- Site maps and diagrams showed neighborhood context, size of site, and building footprint.

#### IV. Survey Feedback

- At the time of this meeting 76 online responses were collected with help from Friends of Adams Branch Library
- Staff has collected some hard copy surveys, which will be uploaded for addition to the data set
- Top responses to the survey:
  - Most visitors are 35-65 years of age
  - Average frequency of visit 1 time per month
  - Use Adams Street Branch library almost exclusively
  - Arrival on foot
  - Enjoy location, staff, and children programs
  - Most popular parts of library : Children and Teen area
  - Agree that current building is too small and old
  - Want larger community facilities and programming
  - Want more technology programming

#### V. Program Study

- NADAAA presented the building program in six categories: *Entrance zone, Adult section, Teen section, Children's section, Shared service, Administration*
- The total proposed expanded program is approximately 15,500 sf.
- AL noted that the draft program presented at the meeting is pending final confirmation by BPL. Any edits or revisions will be highlighted at the next CAC meeting.
- The collection is planned to be the total of 26,800 volumes/items, which represents a reduction of current collections by approximately 19%.
- Adjacency diagrams were presented, showing the expanded areas as well as precedent photos (e.g. other libraries with successful spaces)
- A group of Friend of Adams Street Branch Library visited some of the other Boston branches; some of the initial feedback:
  - The group likes the Teen and Children's area in Mattapan Branch, The Maker space and gaming room for kids were specifically interesting for the group; also it was nice that the Teens and Children were close but also separate.
  - The high service desk (Grove Hall) was seen as a barrier rather than an invitation to interact with staff. A lower service desk allows more interaction.
  - Some of the branches did not seem to have enough books.
  - The East Boston Branch has an open floor plan; it can seem loud when crowded
  - The multi-purpose hall in East Boston Branch seems to work well.

#### VI. General Comments

- There are concerns regarding to the pedestrian safety along Adams Street. The existing crosswalk in the front of library is in the blind spot of some drivers
- During a short discussion regarding mixed-use, it seems the small site would be challenging for a multi-story building so mixed use is unlikely. Obstacles to a multi-use building would likely include additional space required for vertical circulation in a multi-story building and a longer community approval process.
- For operational reasons, the library will be planned for a single floor.
- There were questions about use of the library during construction; It will not be possible to use the existing site during either a renovation or a new construction. Possible interim measures include a bookmobile, use of other branches, other community buildings. MC pointed out that during the JP branch renovations some BPL programs have been held at the nearby Curtis Hall Community Center.
- Several CAC members reminded the team that the Reading Garden is an important part of the library for many longtime patrons and neighbors.

ACTION ITEMS

- NADAAA will participate in the next staff meeting of Adams branch library on Sept 29th.
- The hard copy surveys will be collected by library and passed to NADAAA in the next staff meeting.
- The presentation will be made available online.
- NADAAA to develop diagrams and building drawings for both an addition to the existing building and a new building on the same site.

Next Meeting: TBD  
Minutes by: Amin Tadj