
Project Name: ADAMS STREET BRANCH LIBRARY STUDY
NADAAA Project No: 1603
Location: 690 Adams Street, ADAMS STREET BRANCH
Date: 06/27/16
Time: 6:30pm
Attendance:

David Cotter (ONS)	
Priscilla Foley (BPL)	Amin Tadj (NADAAA)
Patricia Lyons (PFD)	Katie Faulkner (NADAAA)
Alistair Lucks (PFD)	
Kate Brown (Adams Street Branch)	
Christine Bailey	Michael Soucy
Tia Feuerstein	Grace Hebard
Erin Murphy	Mary O'Brien
Christine Whitemore	Louise MacLennan
Susan Hollnas	Jinny McCulloch
Meaghan Schwelm	Mary L' Linn
	Madeline Cahill

I. Introductions and Schedule

- The CAC meetings are intended as working group meetings. They are open to the public.
- Alistair Lucks introduced the project, team, and schedule
- NADAAA presented information about their firm, preliminary findings, and outlined approach.
- The expected duration of the entire process may be three years, including 6 months of study, 12 months of design and 18 - 24 months of construction.
- CAC asked questions about budget, and contingencies should there be surprises during renovation/construction
- NADAAA to explore scenarios for the swing space during construction
- Next CAC meeting targeted for early September to discuss Draft Program #1 based on BPL requirements and initial feedback from community

II. General Site Review and Feedback

- NADAAA presented initial observations of the existing building, mechanical and electrical systems.
- Three options (*Renovation, Expansion and New Construction*) were presented; a Small, Medium (Addition) and New approach will be developed for next CAC meeting.
- Nearly all mechanical and electrical systems need to be replaced
- Asbestos and lead tests are not part of the Programming Study and will be addressed in a separate abatement investigation.
- BPL prioritizes accessibility and life safety; any renovation would likely trigger mandatory compliance with current codes (sprinklers) and Mass Access Board requirements.

- Accessible entrance currently through Multipurpose Room. The main entrance needs to be accessible also.
- LEED silver is the City of Boston baseline for new buildings and major renovations; some recent projects have achieved LEED Gold.
- In case of renovation there will be contingencies incorporated in the budget to cover unpredicted issues.

III. Getting Community Feedback: Survey

- NADAAA will wait for the feedback from BPL, PDF and CAC on proposed survey questions
- The number of questions will be limited to 10 in order to get the maximum participation.
- "*The Friends of Adams Street Branch Library*" has a Facebook page and email list of around 500 members. NADAAA will coordinate survey distribution with them.

IV. Planning/Zoning

- CAC feedback is that many library users arrive by foot; there were questions about parking and general agreement that on-street parking is adequate
 - Drop off and accessible parking required
 - Survey will address parking
- BPL generally prefers having all staffed program on one floor.
 - Benchmark program would not fit in existing footprint; NADAAA to explore vertical and horizontal addition
 - CAC expressed a fondness for existing branch building, wanting to keep many of its qualities.
- The Adams Street Branch Library project will be exempt from some typical zoning requirements
- Reading Garden and green space are valued by CAC members; they would like to see more "porosity" between the garden and the interior spaces of the library.
- The library branch has a close relationship with the adjacent Kenny School, with some shared programs.

V. Multipurpose Hall

- Active tutoring program, community meetings
- Some of the existing elements in the Hall are cumbersome: the entrance partitions which used to host the film projector, raised platform. CAC would like to see flexible infrastructure to support different uses and technology.
- CAC expressed interest in small meeting rooms rather than a single large space.

VI. Children Program

- Children's Library confirmed it is desirable to have a program room beside the children area.

ACTION ITEMS

- NADAAA will participate in the next staff meeting of Adams branch library.
- The survey will be distributed after feedback from PFD and BPL.

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- Next CAC meeting will be arranged by David Cotter (Office of Mayor) and Alistair Lucks from PFD.
- NADAAA will refine and submit the existing condition report to the project team.

Next Meeting: TBD

Minutes by: Amin Tadj