

April 1, 2015

**COMMUNITY MEETING HELD AT FANEUL BRANCH OF BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY:
PROGRAMMING STUDY**

PRESENTATION NOTES

- The architects presented three options for the renovation and improvements to the library, which were characterized as follows:
 - Scope 1 - Light Touch
 - Scope 2 - Moderate Intervention
 - Scope 3 - Major InterventionThese were based on the three scope options described in the Programming Report:
 - Scope 1 - ADA Accessibility & Basic Systems Upgrades
 - Scope 2 - Accessibility, System Upgrades + Moderate Expansion
 - Scope 3 - Accessibility, Maintenance + Comprehensive Improvements/ Expansion
- All options involved creating accessible front entrance with a sloped walk that begins on the side street, Bigelow Street. The concept was illustrated with a case study of the Westerly Library in Westerly, Rhode Island which had implemented a comparable solution to their historic library. The accessibility solution for the Faneuil Library front door also involves reconstructing the front steps about 5 feet closer to the sidewalk. The other accessible components of the scheme include adding a small wing at the rear of the building for stair and elevator. Space for accessible toilets on the main floor is created by relocating staff functions to the lower level. Additionally, the raised stage in Children's is maintained (at a lower level) by relocating the entrance to children's and establishing a ramp to the stage where entrance had been located.
- Scope 1 - Light Touch
 - Essentially, this option including only the accessibility improvement noted above together with basic upgrades to building systems. It was noted that by creating accessible paths throughout the library, and reducing the clutter, this option would result in a net decrease in seating and or collections.
- Scope 2 – Moderate Intervention
 - The moderate expansion option is based on the improvements of Scope 1, and includes a modest addition to the children's wing. Although this scheme added needed program space, specifically for youth services, the net result is still a net decrease in seating and or collections space as a result of establishing accessibility and reducing clutter.
- Scope 3 – Major Intervention
 - The major expansion option keeps all of the improvements of the previous two options, and adds square footage in the space between the two wings of the library to the rear. While a particular arrangement of the program was show in the diagram presented, it was noted that other distribution of the library function in the flexible and open plan were possible, and that the plan could adapt well to change over time.

- In addition to reviewing the conceptual plan drawings, the exterior of the library was illustrated with 3 dimensional representations from two angles to show all aspects of the revised exterior configurations.

COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

- Relocated entrance to children's was generally considered a positive change
- Space near the fireplace should be reserved for adults eating rather than collections.
- It was noted that there was no specific group study space created in the plans.
- There seems to be consensus that the added space toward the street off of the children's wing should not be used for teens, it should be used for expanded children's services space.
- It was recognized that the tree in front of the building, near where the accessible path would be established, might not survive construction. A component of the community felt the building should not have large trees in front of it, but others requested that the tree does not survive, a large caliper replacement tree should be provided.
- There seemed to be consensus that the Teen space in the library would be well positioned in the main reading room, where it is currently located, rather than behind the Circulation desk, as shown in the Light Touch Option.
- There was a general question as to whether adequate storage was being provided in the plan. Although there was still some basement storage in the plan, it was shown smaller than the current storage area. Tappé Architects indicated that additional basement space for storage could be created underneath the added portion of the building to the rear (Major Intervention Option). Will be explored further in design.
- The branch library staff members present at the meeting were comfortable with having their offices and work area relocated onto the lower level.
- There was an expressed interest in maintaining daylight in all areas of the upper floor of the building. Including the notion of more glass in the additions or even a glass roof for the addition.
- Having a door from the addition to the backyard garden area was desired. Establishing a paved courtyard in the garden area outside the addition was desired.
- It was noted and appreciated that the expansion space, especially the expansion space in the center rear of the library, was not subdivided with partitions. This approach meant that the space could be used for a variety of purposes overtime.
- It was observed that only the major expansion option actually increased the utility and functionality of the library. While the other options increase in the square foot area of the floor plans, that additional space was required to relieve congestion and for accessibility, and did not increase space available for collections or seating area for patrons.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

- Community commentary will be welcomed up to 3 weeks from the presentation date and should be submitted to Christine
- Architectural Design Team will develop the design and cost estimate
- Next Community Meeting will be scheduled in about 6 weeks time