



Fields Corner Branch Library Study

Community Meeting #2

April 8, 2019

6:30– 8:30 PM

Fields Corner Branch Library

Attendees

PFD: Maureen Anderson (MA), Senior Project Manager

BPL: David Leonard (DL), BPL, President
Alison Ford, BPL Major Projects Program Manager
Michael Colford, Director of Library Services
Eamon Shelton, Director of Operations
Priscilla Foley (PF), Director of Neighborhood Services
Kimberly McCleary, Fields Corner Branch Librarian
Cynthia Dye, Fields Corner Childrens Librarian

OEA: Matt Oudens (MO), Principal
Chris Genter, Senior Associate

RODE: Kevin Deabler (KD), Principal

DNS: Khoa Pham

Community: Refer to Sign in Sheet

MEETING MINUTES

Presentation to the Community

(Refer to attached 2019-04-08 BPL Fields Corner Community Presentation 2.pdf for slides)

- Introduction and Process (David Leonard, BPL)
- Proposed Library Program (Matt Oudens, OEA)
- Site Analysis (Kevin Deabler, RODE)
- Building Massing (Matt Oudens, OEA)

Community Questions and Comments

- 1) Questioned the role of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) since there are only 4 community meetings, but no separate meetings with the CAC to advise on the design. [BPL: Our policy is to have CAC meetings with public meetings for library studies and design projects. It has worked out well.]
- 2) What is the status of the CAC? The Friends presented a list to the BPL in November. [BPL to share list with attendees of community meeting via email]
- 3) What is the process of getting onto the CAC? [DL: reach out to Khoa Pham at the end of the meeting]
- 4) Stated that community meeting process is not a design process, it's a show-and-tell with feedback. Request for meetings with the CAC in addition to the scheduled community meetings.

- 5) Expressed concern that the voices of the community are not being heard. Adams Street Branch Library design process cited as an example of the disconnect between the community and the design. [BPL: That is not our understanding of the process for the Adams Street Branch.]
- 6) David Leonard explained that this is the typical library study and design process and that the CAC is a group that provides continuity in the community process to ensure that community priorities and need are being addressed. In addition to community meetings, feedback can be sent any time via email to Priscilla Foley. The goal is transparency.
- 7) Friends groups at other libraries are frustrated by the BPL's typical community meeting process [DL: Surprised to hear this, since it is working well at other branch libraries]
- 8) Concern that community is only giving feedback on what is presented and that any design changes are only a minor concession. [DL: Not true, designs go through radical changes at part of this process]
- 9) Can additional CAC meetings be added to this process? [DL: Adding meeting does add consultant team time and cost. Adding meetings would be a change to process and would need to be approved by appropriate city agencies]
- 10) What height is the 2-story building? [MO: Roughly 30'-0"]
- 11) Interest in parking under the building.
- 12) Does the existing building have a basement? [MO: No]
- 13) What is the shape of the roof in the 2-story building scheme? [MO: This is just a conceptual design showing the massing of the building on the site. The shape of the roof would be studied as part of the building design following the study.]
- 14) Have the abutters been engaged to share what is being planned for the library? The development should be coordinated with adjacent planned development projects. [MA: Not yet, this engagement will happen following the study at the beginning of design.]
- 15) The library should encourage use by the senior/elderly population who don't have other places to go in the neighborhood. Provide adequate space clearances, suitable acoustics and adjacency to restrooms.
- 16) Liked the idea of lower shelving, but concerned it would limit collection size. [MO: Will test-fit collection to make sure that they fit as part of the planning/design process]
- 17) It is important for the community to understand how programming decisions and tradeoffs be managed and prioritized between the different alternatives being studied.
- 18) How will the collection and collection size be determined for the library? [PF: Based on three years of statistical analysis of circulation and use trends. This information is available on the BPL website and can also be shared with the attendees of the meeting]
- 19) Supports a mixed-use building that contains community uses. The WGBH studio at the Central Library and Grove Hall are excellent examples. This addresses the needs of a growing community and is forward-thinking. This is a good first-step.

- 20) Interested in a rooftop garden space, a basement emergency shelter space, and suggested uses that are under-provided-for in the neighborhood. Housing and café spaces, while nice, are typical – this is an opportunity to do something different.
- 21) Recommended that the design team seek input from the local schools on the children's spaces.
- 22) At what point in the process do we talk about the look of the building – the architectural style? [MO: the 'test-fits' during the study are a planning exercise to understand how the program elements could best fit on the site. The 'style' of the building would be addressed during the design phase following the study.]
- 23) How will a development partner be identified if a mixed-use scheme? [MA: If mixed-use , there will be an RFP process to identify a development partner, detailed library program would be included in RFP. This would be a public-private partnership and it's important to find the right development partner.]
- 24) Supports the massing of the mixed-use scheme and encouraged space for non-profits as the mixed-use component since they are being priced-out of the neighborhood.
- 25) How do we know the community ideas and feedback are being listened-to? How are the community ideas being recorded and who's confirming that the feedback is being addressed? [PF: All community feedback is shared with the design team]
- 26) What determined the 5-story height? [KD: Based on the urban analysis of the neighborhood, the design team recommends 5 stories as an appropriate height. Additionally, the building should stay under the high-rise height threshold of 70 ft.]
- 27) Should explore the possibility of renting parking spaces in the lot across the street.
- 28) Recommend a comprehensive approach to mixed-use development and not only limit it to the library property. [MA: The RFP process allows for expanded proposals.]
- 29) Project should include bike parking. [Yes]
- 30) David Leonard concluded that the BPL will distribute the CAC list to everyone on the sign-in sheet via email and would follow up with city agencies on adding CAC meetings and would report back via email.
- 31) Next community meeting to be scheduled for August.