



## **Fields Corner Branch Library Study**

Community Meeting #3

June 17, 2019

6:30– 8:30 PM

Fields Corner Branch Library

### **Attendees**

PFD: Maureen Anderson (MA), Senior Project Manager  
Paul Donnelly (PD), Assistant Director of Design

BPL: Alison Ford, BPL Major Projects Program Manager  
Priscilla Foley (PF), Director of Neighborhood Services  
Laura Irmischer, Chief of Collections  
Kimberly McCleary, Fields Corner Branch Librarian  
Cynthia Dye, Fields Corner Childrens Librarian

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

DNS: Khoa Pham (KP)

Community: Refer to Sign in Sheet

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Presentation to the Community**

Refer to attached 2019-06-17 BPL Fields Corner Community Presentation 3.pdf for slides

#### **Community Questions and Comments**

1. Is the budget the same for the library and the library with mixed use projects? (MA: No, the mixed-use funding would come from a developer partnership through an RFP process)
2. Can parking be provided in the basement? (MO: Basement parking is expensive and the building footprint would not allow adequate room for ramp access and parking spaces. We could explore a basement for mechanical spaces or other programs)
3. Comments/questions on program area:
  - 3.1. What do you mean when you talk about maximum square footage? (MO: The target square footage identified in the program numbers.)
  - 3.2. Since it will be a two-story building, why not just double the existing library square footage? (MO: There will be some double-height spaces, and in the mixed-use scheme, we'll need to allow for a separate entrance, elevator and stair to the access the spaces above the library.)
  - 3.3. In the mixed-use scheme, will the library be smaller? (MO: No, the goal is to have the library be the new progra size with or without the mixed-use program.)
4. Suggested a larger community room with folding walls to divide the space into 3 to create a more flexible space to accommodate multiple-sized groups. Hyde Park Branch Library was cited as a good example. (MA: Providing different-sized rooms (classroom and community

room) is meant to provide this flexibility. MO: Movable walls don't perform as well acoustically; need to plan for egress from each of the divided spaces)

5. Suggested that meeting rooms be distributed throughout library for use by different groups (tutoring, etc.)
6. Comments/questions on lower shelving heights:
  - 6.1. Loss in linear footage for books. Cited Jamaica Plain Branch Library as an example of providing too-little shelving and needing to provide additional shelving with rolling carts.
  - 6.2. Patrons with mobility issues have an easier time accessing books on higher shelves, rather than low shelves.
  - 6.3. Are the shelves low for security reasons? (MO: Yes, low shelving in the middle of the room allows the library staff better see and monitor the space. Shelving along walls or at the perimeter of rooms can be taller, it's only the shelving in the middle of the space that would be lower.)
7. Comments/questions on collections:
  - 7.1. What will the new collection size be? (LI: 25,000-31,000 volumes; current collection is approximately 43,000 volumes)
  - 7.2. With more community members using the new library, won't there need to be more books, not fewer?
  - 7.3. How will the collection content be determined? Current circulation is based on the materials available. Recommended a survey of the community to determine which materials they'd like to see in the collection.
  - 7.4. Books in multiple languages should be provided. (LI: The library currently collects in 17 languages)
8. Comments/questions on technology:
  - 8.1. Recommended that more computers be provided since wait times to use one can be long.
  - 8.2. What other technologies will be provided? (PF: Described 'Tech Petting Zoo' at the Austin Public Library as an example of a place in the library that features new technologies for patrons to test/use.)
  - 8.3. Recommend that 3d printers be included. (MO: These could be part of the classroom space and allow it to function as a maker lab. PF: Will need to plan for proper ventilation)
  - 8.4. Recommended a "Memory Lab" with high quality high speed scanning equipment for digitizing photos.
  - 8.5. One comment that there should be less technology and more collection space. Books are more important than technology at the library.
9. Comments/questions on mixed-use:

- 9.1. Are there other examples of mixed-use libraries in the city? (MA: The mixed-use component would be privately developed in partnership with the city. This is a new development model – the City of Boston and BPL are looking to innovation. PF: Cited Grove Hall, Uphams Corner, and Chinatown as examples of combining the library with other programs in the same building. )
- 9.2. The mixed-use program should be a benefit/resource for the most vulnerable in the community.
- 9.3. Recommended outreach to local CDC's for their input on the mixed-use component.
- 9.4. Has this been presented to the Field's Corner Civic Association? (PF: Yes)
- 9.5. When will the community have a chance to comment on the mixed-use program? (MA: The city will reach out to the community for input once the project is funded and before the RFP to developers)
10. Comments/suggestions on public process:
  - 10.1. Immigrant communities use the library the most. There needs to be more outreach to the immigrant communities to participate in the process. (KP: There were representatives of the Vietnamese community at previous meetings. KP contacted community members about this meeting, but no one happened to be available to attend.)
  - 10.2. When will CAC meetings begin? (MO: This additional meeting is the CAC meeting. AF: There will not be separate CAC meetings without the public, as described at the last meeting)
  - 10.3. Commented that the current process is more like an information session, not a community advisory process.
  - 10.4. Recommended providing an agenda prior to meetings describing what will be presented and goals for the meeting.
11. Comments/suggestions for programming:
  - 11.1. Innovation Lab: space with acoustic baffles and green screen for creating podcasts, movies, etc. This could be incorporated into the classroom or one of the study rooms.
  - 11.2. Outdoor Space: A second-floor patio or deck over the parking or on the roof with a garden and sitting areas.
  - 11.3. Kitchen/cooking space: Immigrant communities could share ethnic foods with the community; teaching children to cook.
  - 11.4. Need more bathrooms and one dedicated to children's space (MO: the current program has a family bathroom in the children's space and more bathrooms to accommodate the increased number of users in the library)
12. Suggestions for library layout:
  - 12.1. Children's space should be located on the first floor for ease of access.
  - 12.2. Adults and teen spaces could be upstairs
  - 12.3. Community space could be located upstairs or down.

13. Will the building be 'green'? (MA: City requires a minimum of LEED Silver certification)
14. Recommended 'standard' building materials that are easy to repair or replace. (MA: City requires high durability and easy to maintain materials.)