



MEETING NOTES

Faneuil Branch Library Renovations

Community Meeting #2

March 4, 2020

Attendees

Oudens Ello Architecture: Conrad Ello

Boston Public Library: David Leonard, Alison Ford, Priscilla Foley, Eamon Shelton & Lissa Schwab

City of Boston Public Facilities Department: Mary Silveria, Alistair Lucks

35+ community members

Agenda

- Project Team
- Project Schedule
- Community Meeting #1 Recap & Project goals
- Initial Design Concepts
 1. Accessibility
 2. Building Layout
 3. Building Massing
- Discussion / Community Input

Community Comments

General

- Q: Can the entry desk be eliminated? A: A borrower services desk is part of the program.
- Comment: Art exhibition is a critical part of the visitor experience at the Faneuil Branch. Please identify opportunities for display in the new renovation.
- Q: why not move the entry pavilion to Bigelow Street side of the historic building? A: We feel it is important that the main entrance face onto Oak Square. Moreover, adding onto the building on the Bigelow Street side would obfuscate the historic façade at its most prominent corner. Bigelow is also a steeply sloping street that presents accessibility challenges.
- Q: What about a quiet reading room somewhere? A: A dedicated quiet reading room is not in the program given the small size of the library. We will look for areas throughout the building for individual / quiet study.

Community Room

- Comment: I would prefer that the Community Room have books in it.
- Q: Can we have a raised area in the new Community Room? A: a raised platform, or stage would require a permanent ramp with handrails, which would significantly impact the layout of the Community Room.

Basement

- Q: Where is the Friends storage room and how big is it? A: The Friends will have a dedicated storage room on the lower level of the library. The room is roughly 100 square feet in size.

Outdoor space

- Q: What is the connection to outdoor space? A: The terrace in front of the entry pavilion will be a new outdoor gathering space for patrons. Access from this terrace to the base of the historic stair will also encourage people to sit there and will foster informal gatherings at the front of the building. Note: the rear of the building requires an emergency access walkway and is too narrow for gathering. Having said that, new plantings on the rear hillside will be nice to look at through the Children's Room windows.
- Q: Do these existing Magnolia trees have to go? If so, then we would want something high to replace them. In other words, not all low shrubbery. A: one of the Magnolia trees is sick and cannot remain. And the one to the left hand side of the existing entry is in the way of the new entry pavilion. We will ask about possibly saving and heavily pruning one, but we're not confident we can keep them. The current plan is to remove both and replace them with a new tree or two at the corner of Faneuil and Bigelow streets, a bit further away from the base of the building to give more space between plantings and the building.
- Comment: can we add a public art installation to the project? A: We can look at the Mayor's budget for art.

Next Steps

- Community Meeting #3 planned for early Summer 2020.

END OF MEETING NOTES