

Meeting Notes

Project: Belmont Public Library
Re: Sustainability Goal Setting Meeting
Date Issued: January 25, 2019
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These meeting notes are from the January 22, 2019 Sustainability Goal Setting Meeting with the Belmont Public Library Building Committee. The meeting was held at the current library. A presentation introducing general sustainability concepts was followed by a goal setting and brainstorming exercise.

GENERAL NOTES:

1. Big picture sustainability goals should be determined by the committee to guide the project design, guide conversations with other local stakeholders, and to inform and enhance fundraising. Sustainable design is what will be expected. Not a question of do we do it, but a question of how and what are the sustainability goals of the library.
2. The decision whether to pursue green building certification can be made in early design development.
3. The Belmont Comprehensive Plan highlights some sustainability measures particularly related to energy savings and the network of green spaces and alternative transportation.
4. There appears to be a significant opportunity for water management as a driver for site and building design.
5. Belmont Light is the local electricity provider – if the building is all electric, the utility fees stay local.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION NOTES

Prompt: What would you want the Belmont Citizen-Herald to say about this project when the new Belmont Library is complete and occupied? After being opened for five years, what do you want people to still be saying about it?

All comments collected from the attendees of the meeting are listed below. The Green Engineer has taken a first pass at broadly categorizing the comments.

Exciting and transformative

Exciting!

Transformative.

It's more than we expected in every dimension.

I'm headed over there right now!

In 5 years: I've been there three times this week.

I think we should open a branch.

You should join the friends – it's awesome.

A welcoming gem of the community

This is the new gem of the community.

The building itself contributes to the community, just as its contents do.

Beautiful community spaces in the building.

The library is fun and so is the site and wild flower garden.

More than ever, the library has become the community's living room – a place where all feel welcome and want to spend time.

The building is a perfect expression of our community's aspirations and identity.

Place making – defines Belmont Center.

Library and high school – a new green Belmont.

In 5 years: Grown into itself and life of town.

It's of Belmont and beyond.

It's one of our greatest assets.

Educational

Place that opens people's minds to learning and to the joy of reading.

Educational and green.

User-friendly and comfortable

Easy to use and comfortable space.

You know where you want to be and can find it easily.

Comfortable and functional spaces.

User-friendly.

Healthy and inviting

Bright, spacious, quiet, inviting.

Inviting, colorful space that invites and excites imagination.

Good air and light.

Lots of use of natural light.

Comfortable, well-lit series of spaces that is desirable to read a book in.

People are saying, I always feel better after a visit to the library - it lifts me up.

On time and on budget

Came in on time and under budget.

On time and on budget

Well-constructed.

The building has aged well.

Efficient to operate

5 years: Efficient to operate and still as inviting when opened.

The library has exceeded its projections for low maintenance costs – they are x90 lower than anticipated.

Low carbon footprint

The library has helped the town reduce its carbon footprint thanks to the solar panels on site and its efficient HVAC heat pump system.

The library has run for five years without using any fossil fuels.

Well-designed and adaptable to changing needs

Thought through long term considerations for use, operations and sustainability.

Well-designed across all aspects.

A well-designed environment.

They really planned this well, to a “T.”

Building and size function together as one.

5 years: Flexible design to meet changing needs.

5 years: In this day of the internet, they designed the library so it is still relevant and serves Belmont’s needs.

Connected to natural landscape

Increased the trees and plants on site.

Integrates the outside in.

Opened up views to Wellington Brook.

Integration of living material. Living wall? Green roof?

Integration of outdoor views from indoor spaces.

Integrates with larger ecosystem

Makes me aware of larger natural systems of town.

The new library improves Belmont’s water quality.

I like to go there even when library is closed because site feels like a park.

Blends with the surrounding.

END OF NOTES