



Project: Belmont Public Library

Meeting Date: April 25th, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

Meeting: Library Building Project
Abutters Meeting

Report By: Laura Jolly

Attending: * Building Committee Members

* Robert McLaughlin
* Clair Colburn
* Christina Marsh
* Marty Bitner
* Kathleen Keohane
* Sally Martin
* Peter Struzziero (Library Director)
Noel Murphy (Architect)

Laura Jolly /CHA

Item

1. **Introductions:**

Clair Colburn, Chair of the Library Building Committee opened the meeting. Building Committee members introduced themselves, Oudens Ello, CHA and public introduced themselves.

2. **Site:**

Diagram of site strategy was shown. Existing library to be demolished to make way for the new library. Existing building is 29,000sf and new building is 40,000sf. Wellington Brook is a constraint and an asset and parking is a constraint. There will be an increase by one space for parking. The intent along Concord Avenue is to give a civic face. Building will be entered from street/sidewalk level. The side along the brook opens to a serene environment. New library is along the Underwood Pool, gets rid of driveway to back and converts space to green space. There is a series of outdoor rooms on the back side and also provide library functions.

3. **Exterior:**

Exterior views were presented. Materials emphasize brick as the foremost material with history of brick in Belmont. There is a transparency with the building from Concord Ave to the brook. At the top is a manufactured material to look like wood. Tall volume also has photovoltaic panels on the top. These provide about 40% of the energy needs of the building. Façade facing Underwood lawn has an outdoor reading porch. Back side along the brook steps down to change the scale of the building relative to the green spaces. There is a group of study rooms on this side. There can be events or reading outside. Flexibility is part of all of the design.

4. **Public Comments/Questions:**

Question: Is the second story at the back side compromised for a feeling of the step down?

Answer: The space isn't compromised it's just a matter of how the spaces are distributed. There was an interest in not having a shear wall facing the brook. The larger community space on the first floor provides evening access. This wing of the building can be closed off.

Question: Is the building going to have a café?

Answer: The building currently has space allocated for vending machines, but it wouldn't require any service contract with a third party. We're looking at a grab and go station. We're looking to find the right balance with something that is self-service.

Comment: One concern is parking.

Response: We've looked at how to reduce contractor parking. Currently there are spaces out front for parking. There have been conversations about laying down gravel in the Golden Bowl for laydown space or contractor parking. Another option we're looking out is renting spaces from surrounding businesses.

Question: What is the plan for demolition, and where the staff goes?

Answer: We're currently mid-way through the Design Development phase. The next phase will be construction documents and then in winter of 2024 the demolition will begin. Move

out will happen before this. Construction to start late winter/early spring and the construction will complete in the Fall of 2025. The temporary services are being finalized. Children services, adult services, hybrid and in person services to be provided. The minuteman network will be utilized.

Question: Are there certain construction hours?

Answer: There will be specific hours laid out in the contract documents with restrictions on noise.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.