



Belmont Public Library Building Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes Tuesday 10/11/23 at 6:30 PM
Hybrid Meeting, Belmont Public Library Flett Room/Zoom

Building Committee Members

Attending: (* In Person)

- * Robert McLaughlin
- * Clair Colburn
- * Christina Marsh
- Marty Bitner
- * Peter Struzziero (Library Director)
- Bob Schafer
- Sally Martin
- Marcie Schorr Hirsch
- Stephen Sala
- Steve Engler

CHA – Owner’s Project Manager

- Jake Zelikman
- Tom Gatzunis
- *Alyssa Chatani

Oudens Ello – Design Team

- Conrad Ello (Architect)
- John Branagan (Architect)
- Jenni Wilson (Architect)
- Marika Kobel (Architect)

Others:

- Dave Blazon (Facilities Director)
- Susan Lewis (Public)
- Anne Paulson (Public)
- Fred Paulson (Public)

1. Welcome Public

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the 9/13/23 Building Committee Meeting Minutes was made by Robert McLaughlin. The motion was seconded by Marty Bitner. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Invoices

CHA’s invoice for \$14,400 includes work for the Construction Documents phase. A motion to approve the invoice was made by Robert McLaughlin and seconded by Christina Marsh. The invoice was unanimously approved.

Oudens Ello’s invoice for \$136,462.60 includes a fee for design services for the Construction Documents phase and their subconsultants. A motion to approve the invoice was made by Robert McLaughlin and seconded by Bob Schafer. The invoice was unanimously approved.

4. Project Update

The Community Update date was discussed with a few potential dates, which will be coordinated and finalized around other public meetings. It will be held as a hybrid meeting. The third Planning Board hearing was discussed where the project team returned to discuss contractor parking, site lighting, and mechanical sound barriers. The next step is to submit the Notice of Intent to the Conservation Commission before the Planning Board can vote on their decision. The first hearing at Conservation Commission is scheduled for the week of October 30th. The Demolition package for the project is being finalized and will be put out to bid during the week of November 13th. The award and contract will take place in early December and the Notice to Proceed would likely be mid-December.

Peter Struzziero discussed the upcoming Library operations. The closing date is planned for November 22nd and the move is planned for the week of December 4th. The inventory list is being finalized and any leftover furniture in the building will go through the Town's procurement process before demolition. The soft launch for the library will potentially be December 18th and the committee expressed that the timeline seems too tight. Peter is in discussions with the Board of Library Trustees on the re-opening dates. Peter discussed the celebration of the library which is scheduled for Saturday, November 18th and has invited the committee and the public.

5. Design Update

Marika Kobel from Oudens Ello presented updated renderings of the Library Commons, Community Room, and Children's area. The renderings reflected millwork throughout and placeholder furniture. The furniture and fabric discussions will be discussed in future working group meetings. The committee discussed the glass at the stairwell and there was feedback to refine this area and provide the section details for better understanding. The renderings of the circulation desk, stained glass, and Children's activity center was presented. The committee provided feedback on the stained glass wall that a color from that scheme can be pulled out and reflected within the interior finishes in the Children's wing. The committee asked for more high energy, stimulating, and colorful finishes in the Children's wing. Oudens Ello will adjust the renderings to reflect the books in color to brighten up the space. Conrad Ello discussed colorful metal shelving, stronger and bolder wall colors, and real daylight conditions that are not captured in the renderings. The discussion continued around having a potential theme with the furniture. Marika presented the Periodicals, Quiet Reading Room, Community Classroom, and the Teen's Wing. The committee expressed positive feedback on the accent walls and suggested that the Quiet Reading Room could benefit from an accent color on the exterior wall. Comfortable seating was emphasized by the committee and Marika flipped through the renderings to present several areas where there is planned seating.

6. Public Comment

A member of the public discussed the community space as a high traffic area, which can accommodate a number of uses, and Peter discussed how the expanded space from the current library will accommodate the services the library programming is meant to provide for the public. Another member of the public discussed the project's use of the green space at the golden bowl as a parking lot. Their concern was the proximity to the pool operations and impact to the trees. Clair explained the due diligence that the project team has committed to before deciding on the golden bowl for parking. The use of the golden bowl is temporary, and that use was granted by the Select Board. The plan was discussed to return the green space to its prior condition.

7. Adjourn

Bob Schafer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM and was seconded by Marty Bitner. The adjournment was unanimously approved.