

Attendees: Betsy Batey, Megan Bolinder, Cynthia Cochran, Matthew Moses, Michelle Stamps Pritchett, Kimberly Seay, Judy Marquess, Teresa Stafford, Octavio Sanchez, Vira Kousol and Hadi Dudley.

The group met via Zoom videoconferencing.

**Call to Order**

Hadi Dudley, Library Director, called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

**Welcome Guests**

Library Needs Assessment Steering Committee: Debbie Griffin, Shelli Kerr, David Wright, Courtney Fitzgerald, Heather Hays, Sue Ann Pekel and Anna Sharon.

Bentonville Library Foundation: Bo Grimes, Patrick Heavrin, Molly Hedberg, Aaron Jones, Howard Kerr, Arthi Krishna, Benjamin Lacy, Abby Lopez, Rick Rogers and Liz Schieffler.

Walton Family Foundation: Joe Randel, Jeremy Pate and Meredith Bergstrom.

MSR Design: Matthew S. Krontord, Kristilyn Vercruysse and Veronica McCracken.

**Agenda Items**

1. Library Needs Assessment Study
  - a. Hadi gave brief overview and status update for new members and guests.
    - i. Library Foundation conveyed the exiting library property, building, and parking lot, to City of Bentonville for library use.
    - ii. Library Foundation also conveyed two adjacent grassy lots north of the alley behind the library for expansion.
    - iii. City of Bentonville purchased the barber/beauty shop for library expansion.
    - iv. In January, the structure will be removed and return that lot to grass, using it for an outdoor programming space in the spring.
    - v. The city is exploring a potential bond extension of this existing bond.
      1. Library improvements will be considered with this option and details will be shared publicly with City Council very soon.
      2. MSR was charged with creating an option for the city with 4.5 million in addition to the community needs assessment option.
  - b. MSR Design presentation of BPL's Needs Assessment by Kristilyn Vercruysse\* attached
  - c. Final presentation scheduled for January 26, 2021 to City Council

**Approval of December 2, 2020 Minutes**

The group reviewed the minutes from the December 2, 2020 meeting. Matthew Moses moved, Michele Stamps Pritchett seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. The December 2, 2020 board minutes were approved as presented.

**The Library Advisory Board will meet February 3, 2021 at 1 pm via Zoom.**

**Adjournment** - The Library Advisory Board adjourned at 2:01 pm.

**Attachments** - MSR presentation notes (pg 2-3) Friends of the Library report (pg 4) submitted via email.

## **MSR Design presentation of BPL's Needs Assessment by Kristilyn Vercruysse**

- i. Timeline - MSR is currently in creation stage of final Needs Assessment report
- ii. Public Engagement:
  - 1. Survey review – needs based on 872 responses:
    - i. Focus on maker / activity space for learning
    - ii. Outdoor spaces
    - iii. Private / quiet study rooms
    - iv. Diversified and increased collection – BPL's collection is growing to meet community needs.
    - v. Community collaboration
    - vi. Integration of art
  - 2. Public engagement review – 239 participants / 22 meetings
  - 3. Public art project is ongoing
- iii. Process: site review
  - 1. Reviewed all sizes of site options / balancing square footage with community needs and outdoor spaces
  - 2. Reviewed floor plan options
- iv. City Option – meets current needs
  - 1. 4.5 Million project cost
  - 2. 1 level expansion 6,400 SF
  - 3. 10,000 SF interior renovation
  - 4. Light renovation throughout facility
  - 5. Expand existing parking
  - 6. Develop outdoor spaces
  - 7. Increased admin / staff area by relocating Haney room
  - 8. Added Activity Room / maker space with sufficient storage
  - 9. Increase youth services space – includes story time and craft expansion
  - 10. Added exterior adult spaces
  - 11. Probable Total Project Cost (from cost estimator) \$4,496,349
  - 12. Potential for additional phases – 2A and 2B
    - i. Phase 2A – 300 person auditorium
    - ii. Phase 2B – additional staff space, central “marketplace” with meeting rooms, Friends store, added collection space and added meeting space
- v. Needs Assessment – meets 20 year needs
  - 1. 1 level expansion 26,555 SF
  - 2. 300 person meeting room, divisible into two 150 person rooms
  - 3. Expanded youth collection and programming space
    - i. Story time room and youth craft room
    - ii. Teen collection, collaboration and study space
  - 4. Exterior Programming Space
  - 5. Learning gardens facing the main street
  - 6. Added activity room / makerspace
  - 7. Increased Genealogy
  - 8. Increased adult study
  - 9. Increased staff space

10. Increased Friends store with adjacent storage
11. Other: marketplace, café, sensory room, community hub, etc...
12. Connection to Art community:
  - iii. Gallery walls
  - iv. Activity room and craft room potential spaces to feature classes with local artists
  - v. Community hub to direct to community museums and amenities
13. Connection to Bicycling community
  - vi. Potentially bring bike path into new outdoor space
  - vii. Potential for bike education in activity room
  - viii. Café and outdoor space as a featured stop along the bike trail
14. Review of renderings
  - ix. Marketplace
  - x. Children's area
  - xi. Exterior space – still in development

Board members and guests comments / questions are outlined below:

- i. Rick Rogers: Question on pricing of Needs Assessment option.
  1. Full project cost – still in development. Very rough estimate at \$15 million
- ii. Aaron Jones – question on potential of 2<sup>nd</sup> floor option in later phase(s)
  2. Kristilyn Reviewed 2<sup>nd</sup> story addition option – this would add 46,000+ square feet total, and more ideal expansion of this size would include an additional community branch
- iii. Aaron Jones – is there still art gallery space in Walmart room?
  1. Gallery space in marketplace and main hallway outside of Walmart room. Art space will still be available inside Walmart room space as well.
- iv. Michele Stamps Pritchett – question on bike path redesign. Will there be access from bike path into the library, as new proposed bike path will run behind the library?
  2. There is potential for additional access points connected to new outdoor program space.
- v. Kimberly Seay – will outdoor space be fenced?
  1. This is a question for library policy to address down the road. There is balance of security and access to outdoor space.
- vi. Kimberly Seay suggested:
  1. Directing cyclists for the front of the library to park bikes and provide access to the marketplace, café and community hub.
  2. Changing rooms / locker rooms for staff, as well as secure place for staff and volunteers to park bikes.
- vii. Benjamin Lacy – is there a parking need, and is there a plan to increase parking?
  1. Yes, there is a parking need. BPL parking is a public parking lot. Hoping for additional public parking development in downtown area, to free up more BPL parking space for library patrons. The community voiced more need for outdoor program space, which does not allow for parking expansion.

Lots of positive feedback on Needs Assessment plan:

- viii. This plan works to meet the needs of youth, especially during the summer.
- ix. The larger plan seems to meet many community needs, especially with the inclusion of the marketplace / community hub.

**Friends of the Bentonville Library Report – Submitted via email by Judy Marquess to BPL 1/5/2021**

- New slate of officers for 2021-2022
  - President- Judy Marquess
  - Vice-President- Diane Pribbernow
  - Treasure- Luci Henderson
  - Co-Secretaries- Barb Kulwicki and Nate Losapio
- Continue current limited Book Store hours
- Continue to receive donations
- Book request form now available on our website and at the Book Store
- Financial
  - Total revenue for December \$1,228.70
    - Book Store Sales
    - Amazon Sales
    - Memberships
    - Miscellaneous
  - Year to Date revenue \$17,933
  - Expenses for December \$1,942.29
  - Year to Date Expenses \$2,994.55