

Deerfield Public Library
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2009

Attendees: Board Members – Mary Courtney (chair), Ken Abosch, Marla Bark Dembitz, Ron Simon, Michael Goldberg, Sunday Mueller, Jeff Rivlin, Staff - Library Director Mary Pergander, Business Manager Carol Dolin

Ms. Courtney called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. She welcomed everyone and noted how far the project discussions have come in the past year. Six topics of discussion were proposed: 1) the timeline presented at the board meeting by Ehlers and Associates, 2) the question about whether the Library needs to go to referendum for the building project or not, 3) time constraints caused chiefly by the aging HVAC system, but also by fire code non-compliance and access limitations of the existing building, 4) the second opinion on project costs estimates for the renovation project, 5) whether or not to engage PSA Dewberry for phase 2 of the project, and 6) communication between the Library and the Village.

Timeline:

Ms. Pergander addressed issues that could change the timeline, stressing the idea that some items are in the control of the Library while others are dependent on other entities and potential issues that could arise as the project progresses. It is difficult to predict where the process could be held up, so even if the decision is made to move forward, it may take longer than expected. At the same time, the HVAC system is already past its useful life and is a driving force behind continuing to move forward as quickly as possible.

Funding the project:

Because the Village is home rule, there may not be a legal requirement for the Library to go to referendum to obtain the funds necessary for the renovation. However, considering the response of the community to other projects in the village, the board believes it may be advisable to continue to gather input, share information about the needs of the Library, and then possibly put the question to voters. Approximately \$6,000,000 will be required to replace the aging HVAC system and to bring the building up to fire code and into ADA compliance. While doing these projects would make the Library more safe and accessible, no space or cosmetic improvements would be included. If the proposed expansion and improvements are made at the same time as the necessary building maintenance projects, the additional work to improve and expand the space is estimated to cost another \$9,000,000. If the work must be done in stages, it would take longer and very likely end up costing more in the long run. Referendum and non-referendum options for partial funding or staged funding were identified, and each board member was asked to express their current thoughts on the matter.

Next steps:

Mr. Abosch and Ms. Pergander will meet with Mr. Larson from Ehlers and Associates to determine the financial implications of different possible approaches to the project. Following this meeting, Mr. Abosch and Ms. Pergander will schedule a meeting with the Village leadership to assess the Village's position on the project and get recommendations regarding the need for a referendum. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet again on January 9 to discuss the community engagement process. Mr. Larson will be asked to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.