

LRAC: Dec. 2021 Meeting Notes

Attendance

1. Eugenia Schatoff (Library Director)
2. Francis Brooke
3. Michael McCue (Library Board Member)
4. William Morris (Library Board Member)
5. Tom Warren
6. Nadine Faughnan-Green (for Mike Lawler)
7. Stephen Marmon
8. Tom DePrisco
9. Richard DiFiore
10. Michael Mandel
11. Jeannine Clark
12. Ashley Toombs
13. Robert Simon
14. Ana Maria Strattner
15. Brian Cresenzi (Zoom)
16. Robert Gabalski
17. Jim Seidel
18. Ana Maria Strattner (Zoom)
19. Vincent Acocella (Zoom)
20. Robert Schmelter

The meeting began at 6:45, and was broadcast on Zoom for members who can not attend in person. After brief introductions, Library Director Schatoff listed all of the action items that have been completed since the last meeting.

1. The library has undertaken a full envelope study of the building to determine the true state of the facility.
2. We have created a new survey which we debuted at Pearl River Day. We will be sending it out in our Winter 2022 print newsletter, and it also will be made available on our website and shared across social media.
3. We are in the process of getting a permanent chiller unit in time for the next cooling season.
4. In partnership with our new architect firm, we will conduct focus group studies with our patrons as well as the community at large.

5. Our first focus group will be held tonight with you, the members of our advisory committee.
6. We have begun to schedule presentations with local organizations at their monthly meetings (Chamber of Commerce, etc.)
7. A series of Town Hall meetings with our new architect firm will begin in January 2022.
8. We are working to create an updated, relevant mission statement for the library.

Key Takeaways

1. Full Building Study and Focus Groups.
 - a. Committee member and architect Robert Gabalski spoke about the results from the full building study. He said that the building has good bones, and renovations could be done in phases to avoid disruption to library services. According to Gabalski, the structural grid allows flexibility for a phased renovation.
 - b. Moving forward Gabalski's architect firm will be leading the focus groups, with the goal of building on the energy of the last three years, looking at the project with fresh eyes, and making sure everyone in the community is heard. There will be many focus group sessions with a variety of demographic groups. The plan is to get the participants to think about what the library means to them, drawing from their memorable library moments and experiences. From there, we will hone in on practical solutions and designs.
 - c. A draft of the focus group sessions was provided to the committee members. It is not the final draft, and is still being fine tuned.
 - d. Director Schatoff asked the committee members to let her know about any groups that should be included in the sessions.
 - e. In addition, a new survey will be mailed out in the next print newsletter. It will also be made available on the website and social media.
 - f. Board members will be sent the full building study to review.
2. Chiller Unit
 - a. Thanks to connections in the committee, the BOCES facility director reviewed the library building, and put together an estimate to replace the chiller.
 - b. The Board of Trustees has agreed to move ahead with replacing the chiller.
 - c. There is eligible grant money.

- d. Installing the new chiller and shoring up the roof is expected to happen in 2022.
 - e. There could be a need to rent a mobile chiller unit for a couple months while the new one is being installed.
 - f. The money saved from not having to rent every year can go into Capital Improvements.
3. Parking
- a. In the original survey, parking was the biggest issue.
 - b. 140 spaces are recommended for library buildings. Given our lot size, that isn't possible, but the architects will do their best.
 - c. With the new survey, we'll see if that is still the case, especially now that we're in a pandemic.
 - d. Gabalski's firm has a team of specialists, including parking, who will look at ways to solve this issue.
 - e. In the meantime, Board of Education member Tom DePrisco said that the BOE is offering the Franklin Ave. School parking lot for library parking after school and on weekends.

The meeting concluded at 8:15PM.