

LRAC: Oct. 2021 Meeting Notes

Attendance

1. Francis Brooke
2. Michael McCue (Library Board Member)
3. Tom Warren
4. Lisa Wells
5. Nadine Faughnan-Green (for Mike Lawler)
6. Stephen Marmon
7. Tom DePrisco
8. Richard DiFiore
9. Michael Mandel
10. Bob Simon
11. Jeannine Clark
12. Ashley Toombs
13. William Smith
14. Eric Bender
15. Brian Cresenzi
16. Robert Gabalski
17. Kimberly Oates
18. Ana Maria Strattner
19. Sheila Schneider
20. Vincent Acocella

The meeting began at 6:35. Library Director Schatoff opened the meeting by stating that all committee meetings will now have minutes recorded, to be presented to the Board of Trustees. Director Schatoff added that the board is interested in hearing all perspectives on the project, and board member Michael McCue will act as a liaison to report back his observations.

Takeaways

- Figure out how to sell the project to the residents when we decide to go out for another vote
- We will learn from the last bond vote and communicate and educate the public better - the key is to re-engage with the residents.
- The committee wholeheartedly agreed that the library should commission a full building envelope study to determine the exact condition of every part - figure out if we need a full tear down or just a renovation - determine what can be retained, if anything.

- The actual state of the building is a source of controversy in town. Some believe it is not as dire as the library has stated.
- The study will help us prioritize renovation projects.
- Director Schatoff will ask Assemblyman Lawler if the grant money he gave us can be used to pay for the envelope study.
- The library will look into getting RFPs for renovation to get a price check on costs.
- There is an Immediate need for cooling the building next summer. We must find a path that allows us to not rent the mobile chiller again. That will remove a sense of urgency. Humidity is an issue.
- The committee agreed that the library should request proposals for fixing the AC for next Summer.
- The library needs to send surveys to the whole town to get their feedback on what they want from the library (programs, services, features, etc.,
- The survey and all subsequent promotional materials should also be translated into Spanish
- The previous surveys did not capture the entire community, just library users, because they were only available on our website and in the building. It was not comprehensive enough.
- The Board of Trustees need to decide on a mission statement for the project. How will the library serve the community moving forward, based on input from the surveys?
- From this, the library will develop a wishlist of features for the renovation or rebuild.
- What about an analysis on what libraries of the future (in 20-30 years) will look like?
- The committee agrees that the library should have a long-range plan for the library.
- It was suggested that Director Schatoff should contact the Facility Directors from the School District, the Town, and BOCES for guidance (especially for how to handle the warm weather months).
- Moving forward, the library needs to have more of a presence at school board meetings, which are streamed to more than 200 viewers.
- It was suggested that the library hold more webinar format meetings for the general public about the project.
- What price for renovating or rebuilding would be acceptable to the community? We don't know, and part of this process is finding out.
- Lack of diversity and representation on the committee - we need to look for ways to recruit from the growing Hispanic community.
- Director Schatoff will continue to be in contact with all of the committee members.
- Meetings will be set up on a semi-regular basis, with the next meeting tentatively set for December 2, 2021 at 6:30. All future meetings will be on the first of the month at the same time, to be scheduled when necessary.