

# Library Commission Feedback on the current Guiding Principles for Decision Making for the Master Plan

## Guiding Principles

~~The Boulder Public Library seeks to fulfill its mission and inform and guide the development of programs, services, and policies by collaborating with its community.~~

The library's mission and vision statements *along with community input and current use of resources* guide program and policy decisions.

- ~~Funding recommendations are guided by the library's business Master Plan and designed to be flexible and adaptable, with essential services being given priority over desired or discretionary services.~~
- ~~Strategies identified in the Fiscally Constrained Plan are those that Library Commissioners and staff believe must be done to maintain a high-quality library, even if service trade-offs are required. In a fiscally constrained environment such as this:~~
  - ~~A strong central library is given priority over a system of distributed branches,~~
  - ~~preference is given to assuring quality of service over hours of operation, and~~
  - ~~reductions in desired/discretionary services may be necessary to maintain the quality of essential services.~~
- ~~Priority consideration is given to programs and services that:~~
  - ~~Serve significant numbers of people,~~
  - ~~Help BPL keep pace with advancements in the delivery of library services,~~
  - *Something like: [Support the community with developing [all types of] literacy skills.]*
  - ~~Reach groups that cannot easily access library services or are under-served in the community,~~
  - ~~Generate partnerships and leverage volunteerism additional funding, and/or~~
  - ~~Foster community involvement through volunteerism.~~
- *Facilities must be safe, clean and well maintained.*

## Malone, Maureen

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**From:** joni teter <joniteter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 1, 2017 8:58 AM  
**To:** BPL-COM  
**Subject:** comments on the packet

Hi, all -

Thanks for more excellent materials on the master plan, Jennifer. There are two packet areas where I would like to offer suggested alternative or additional language. Since it's always useful too have an opportunity to review language in advance of the meeting, here are my suggestions.

Thanks - J

Page 18, Programs & Services

I think we should make the introductory language and list of outcomes punchier. (Full sentences are **so** 20th century.) I offer a proposed re-write below, and suggest that we use this as a model for the other sections (technology and infrastructure; building community and partnerships; organizational readiness, and financial sustainability).

**Overview** (maybe call this the "overarching goal?")

Instead of the current 1st sentence, I'd suggest using the second version of the mission statement offered by staff.

"BPL harnesses the world of information, the power of ideas, and the inspiration of learning to engage and enrich our community."

While I think this statement is a little wordy to serve as a mission statement, it's an excellent longer version of the mission which seems to speak directly to programs and services.

If we feel the need to summarize points from community feedback that inform the "overarching goal" (the remaining sentences in this paragraph) perhaps we could call those comments out as a series of text boxes? That would make the community feedback more visible, and reinforce the message that the library is listening.

### Outcomes

BPL will:

- Provide access to information that is current, accurate, and relevant
- Provide access to creative technology and digital resources for everyone
- Provide opportunities for creativity, personal growth, community engagement, and life long learning through library programs and services
- Provide platforms for community engagement
- Provide platforms and programs to build early childhood and adult literacy
- Provide platforms and programs to build 21st century literacies for all
- Prioritize programs, collections, and services that:
  - are vital in a 21st century knowledge economy
  - support families and childhood development
  - and respond to [current? evolving?] community needs.
- Use strategic marketing and timely information to connect community members with [alternate: promote awareness of] BPL's programs with resources and services
- Engage the community to gather input on program and service design and delivery on an ongoing basis

Page 22, North Boulder library ballot issue

*Motion for Council, suggested language additions:*

**As part of our vision to develop a community library system, the Library Commission recommends that City Council include funding for expanded library services in north Boulder, including a full-service library in NoBo, as a part of the 2017 Capital Improvement Tax Renewal ballot item. The library is a public space open to all. It promotes free speech, educational, cultural and digital literacy, and cultural and educational awareness.**

*In addition to the motion for Council, we discussed the need to provide language for the community explaining our vision for expansion of library services in north boulder, and how this ballot measure fits in. Since this language must be posted on our website before the City finalizes the ballot measure, we need to agree on language at the August meeting. I've taken a first cut below.*

**As part of the library's vision to develop a community library system, the Library Commission recommended that City Council include funding for expanded library services in north Boulder, including a full-service library in NoBo, as a part of the 2017 Capital Improvement Tax Renewal ballot item.**

#### ***What is the "community library" concept?***

Instead of concentrating programs and services in a central facility, branch libraries replicate (where possible) elements of "full service libraries" in other parts of the community. Decisions about what programs and services to be provided are based on piloting at specific locations. Following the model of the successful NoBo pilot, a short-term lease would be executed to test whether a library can be successful in a specific area. If library usage demonstrates need, a full service branch would be considered.

In some cases, future "Corner" locations may be enough to supply a neighborhood's long-term needs. In other cases (as is being recommended for NoBo), the corner library grows into a full-service location based on identified variables needed to sustain a library - such as location accessibility, availability, density of population, and adjacency to underserved members of the community. Future "Corner" locations may serve Gunbarrel, the Transit Village, or the Arapahoe Avenue and 55th Street areas.

#### ***What is a "full service" library?***

- A public space that is open to all and creates a welcoming and inclusive environment
- A platform for programs and services guided by the principles of free speech that support literacy in all its forms
- A space for the public to access books, media, technology (including public computing) and trained staff
- A facility that provides adequate space for:
  - Public programs for all ages
  - A diversity of meeting spaces for the community to gather, discuss, study and hang out
  - Operating spaces for mission-driven partner organizations that enhance services to the community
  - Creative spaces for the community to design, experiment and produce content.

#### ***What is the plan to expand library services in north Boulder?***

NoBo corner library: Expand to a full service branch, with open hours consistent with other branches

- 2018 – Community engagement to inform the development program plan and select a location
- 2018 - Identify capital and operating funding sources and create a financial plan
- 2018 -2019 - Identify and engage partners
- 2019 -2021 – Planning and construction

Gunbarrel: Pilot a "corner library" (like the current NoBo branch)

- 2018 – Community engagement to inform the development program plan
- 2018 - Identify capital and operating funding sources and create a financial plan
- 2018 – 2019 Identify location and engage partners
- 2019-2021 – Planning and construction

#### ***What kinds of programs and services might be offered at a full service NoBo branch?***

Decisions on which programs and services to offer in a full service branch are based on piloting and testing of successful offerings. Beyond collections (books and media), programs and services in a NoBo full service branch might include:

- Public meeting and community gathering spaces
- Public computing
- Programs and services with a focus on youth and family
- Relocating programs like BoulderReads closer to an underserved neighborhood
- partnerships that can help mitigate long-term staffing needs and potentially generate some level of service or revenue that the library would not otherwise be able to provide (i.e. current partners at Main include the Boulder County Farmers' Market, the Small Business Development Center, Intercambio)
- Open platforms providing some technology and programs to support creativity and making (partly replicating BLDG 61 at Main)

#### ***Where does Gunbarrel fit into the Community Library option?***

Gunbarrel would initially function in much the same way that the NoBo Corner Library functions today. [Provide a list of NoBo offerings]. A short-term lease would be pursued to see if a library can be successful in the long term.