

**CITY OF BOULDER
BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING MINUTES**

Name of Board/ Commission: Library Commission
Date of Meeting: January 9, 2019 at the Main Boulder Public Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave.
Contact information preparing summary: Celia Seaton, 303-441-3106
Commission members present: Joni Teter, Juana Gomez, Joel Koenig, Jane Sykes Wilson Commission members not present: Tim O’Shea
<p>Library staff present: David Farnan, Director of Library & Arts Jennifer Phares, Deputy Library Director Celia Seaton, Administrative Specialist Antonia Gaona, Public Services Manager Leanne Slater, Corner Library Supervisor Zack Weaver, Creative Technologist Mandy Vink, Public Art Program Coordinator</p> <p>City staff present: Sam Veucasovic, Facilities Coordinator III, Facilities & Asset Management Michele Crane, Facilities Design and Construction Manager, Facilities & Asset Management Edward Stafford, Development Review Manager, Development Services</p> <p>Members of the public present: Dan Wood (WorkAC Architecture Team), Erin Robinson, Ted Habermann, Dave Hartzell, Laura Duncan, Adelaide Perr, Kennett Peterson, Mikkela Blanton, Sidney Bittman, Brett Sawchak, Betsey Asher, Lewis Groswald, Amy Morfas, Cheryl Runyon, Amy Roberts</p>
Type of Meeting: Regular
<p>Agenda Item 1: Call to order and approval of agenda [0:00:10 Audio min.] The meeting was called to order and Teter asked if there were any changes to the agenda. After polling the public and finding that their topic was regarding the NoBo project, comment was shifted to Item 5. Teter also noted the addition of Agenda Item 4. There was a nod of approval from the commission for this amended agenda.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 2: Public comment [0:00:00 Audio min.] Moved to Item 5</p>
<p>Agenda Item 3: Consent agenda [0:01:05 Audio min.] a. Approval of December 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes: Teter had sent in an edit by email (see handouts). Koenig moved to approve these amended minutes, Gomez seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 4: Discussion about creating a policy/rule prohibiting use of abusive and derogatory language [0:01:20 Audio min.] Teter asked Farnan to speak to the impetus behind this item. Farnan reported the uptick in unfortunate incidents over the recent holiday season. One especially egregious event involved a patron who resorted to using a “hateful, misogynistic” slur directed toward a staff member. Staff decision made to suspend him for 60 days. However, after reviewing with CAO, it was decided that “we could not uphold this suspension.” Complicated issue involving freedom of speech, legal limitations of the definition of “obscenity,” “hate speech,” and the idea of “fighting words.” Suspension was ultimately vacated. To prevent this sort of allowance in the future, Farnan spoke to potential new rule to prohibit verbal abuse. Push toward civility as opposed to restriction of freedom of speech.</p> <p>Cheryl Runyon, attorney licensed in Colorado who previously worked at the library and long-time substitute staff, spoke. Arriving at Meadows after coming back from vacation, she heard staff conversations indicating low morale. Unable to locate anti-bullying policy on city website, she was pointed to sexual harassment and harassment policies. She believes that the CAO advice conflicts with this anti-harassment verbal policy. “Why would anyone want to work for the City of Boulder if they do not have these protections.”</p> <p>Gomez asked whether the CAO is now looking into language and whether this rule would be separate from city policy. Farnan: these would be rules for behavior specifically in the library. Teter noted her agreement with Ms. Runyon’s</p>

interpretation of the city policy against verbal harassment. Teter wants to move expeditiously as possible to put a policy against verbal abuse in place. Want to be sure staff know “[commission has] their back.”

Phares outlined the policy update schedule. Upcoming policy for next month will be a draft of the internet safety policy. At this meeting, we may bring in similar examples of language policies/rules from other organizations regarding this verbal abuse issue. Retreat on March 9th could see a draft. Examples of inclusivity statements (in conjunction with the restroom renovations) would also be invited. April brings approval of internet safety policy. May could bring a review of the draft inclusivity statement. After review by the CAO and public comment, a draft may be brought back in June for commission review.

Koenig asked about number of incidents in the past year where patrons had to have their library privileges suspended. Farnan estimated 80 in the past year. Koenig asked about staff communication re: this recent issue and Farnan explained that he has individually responded to emails received and also spoke about this in the staff chat held yesterday.

Gomez asked about whether patrons are held to city policy. Phares explained that they are held to municipal code and to library rules.

Teter asked commission if there was any objection to moving forward as expeditiously as possible; there was none. Phares will come back with a projected schedule.

Teter then broached the issue of the CAO not supporting the suspension. She noted the potentially different outcome if the offending party had been an employee themselves. She also noted a possible equity issue of this individual having resources to hire an attorney or seem threatening – would someone with less resources not be taken as seriously? Teter would like to see a discussion of reinstating this suspension, noting her discomfort both with this incident and with the response to it. The commission expressed their agreement with Teter’s statements.

Agenda Item 5: Presentation: north Boulder branch library concept design [0:30:05 Audio min.]

Wood presented on the design concept which strove to address issues raised through community engagement activities as well as the recent public comment gathered at commission meetings. Reviewing some of his past presentation, he spoke to getting to know the unique aspects of Boulder as a place and community, geographically and socially, outlining ideas and connections garnered through “reading Boulder.”

Vision to make this new space more of a community center and less of a book repository. Wood explained that all design plans are in flux; sensitive to the community, he is excited to incorporate input. Plans to now set back building further from the existing apt buildings. Showcased the library building’s views from the windows for the entire community at the southern side, focused on kids and community space. The northern will be internally focused for makerspace, staff, BoulderReads, and quiet space - incorporating heavier, more traditional masonry aspects. Clarification that the makerspace will contain windows, just not as the main feature.

Design was informed by community desires – incorporating views, community gardens, makerspace, outdoor space, etc. Overhang to shield from sun for the southern window facing side. Discussed the public outreach efforts, including architect and staff visiting individual homes in the area. Motivation behind moving the building was to impact views as little as possible. Working in a complementary way with Parks and Recreation as they begin the Violet Park renovation. “Exciting opportunity for your neighborhood.” Showed existing space to indicate the potential, activating Broadway space for retail. Iconic presence – building will appear to disappear into the distance. Showed views from the nearby apartment complex, indicating partial obstruction of mountain views. Further than any other building’s proximity from another in the current complex, this new library will be set at a distance of 75 feet away.

Gaona reiterated the flexible nature of this project – audience tonight has seen more than Planning and Development Services. Extensive 12 to 18-month review process planned where public will be invited to engage. Tonight’s presentation truly a “vision,” “napkin sketch.” “We listened to you a lot in August,” and Gaona noted that there will be further opportunity for one-on-one discussions. In-depth design charettes planned for March (tentatively 9th and 10th) with a variety of community engagement activities. After this additional influence, reworked concept will be presented again to public at May’s commission meeting. Further information to be posted on project webpage.

Traffic studies ongoing, but expectation to have patrons entering through 14th St., mostly walking or on bicycle, with minimal addition of traffic.

Gomez asked about strategies regarding the “iconic presence” of the building. Wood presented the view from Broadway; the “swooping form should read interestingly.” Also noted bookshelf-like structure (“shelf” of playground, “shelf” of

meeting space, etc.) Responding to whether there is a functional reason for the chimneys at the south wall, Wood explained that this is due to majority of public space at the south.

Responding to Koenig's inquiry about internal square footage, Wood noted 12,800 feet. Roughly comparable with other branch libraries, with the additional makerspace footprint.

Sykes Wilson: prior presentation referenced visible sustainable features - is that still in the works? Wood: yes, observable energy technology is the plan, e.g., wind ducts as part of the façade. Permeable, non-traditional parking lot.

Gomez noted importance of encouraging pedestrian access while still allowing the possibility of emergency vehicle access.

Teter expressed appreciation for the team's considerations of traffic issues that affected the design, she feels it has been very responsive to the concerns expressed by commission last time. Stafford referenced the capital improvement program and future connection to Violet. In this case, new street connections are a low priority in the capital program. Would just want to make sure that the library design does not preclude 14th St.

Gomez: "really good integration of all the pieces sustainability, landforms, view corridors," she is "excited to see [the project] go forward." Teter next welcomed public comment on the north Boulder project.

Adelaide Perr: "everything that you add, adds square footage." She requested an explanation of footprint requirements. Gaona noted that the site analysis report could assist and will email directly.

Sidney Bittman expressed curiosity about the non-thru street and strategies that will be employed to direct traffic along 14th. Wood noted that at this point he can only assure that the goal is to reduce traffic and keep it along 14th with techniques such as changing material of the street and additional signage.

Audience member noted that she would like to see the actual traffic report; Gaona will email her with the direct link which is currently on the website.

Audience asked how bikes will navigate to the complex without going through parking lot. Wood explained that bike paths have not yet been designed. Gaona assured that the connection to the bike path won't be severed.

Lewis Groswald asked for more information regarding the potential dog park at Violet. Pertaining to parking and transportation, he also wondered whether there was consideration for the parking to be split with some down closer by Violet, leaving the space near library more for deliveries etc. Wood explained the necessity of providing adjacent parking. Gaona – dog park is conceptual, but funding is in place. High level of collaboration between Parks and Recreations and the Library to incorporate complimentary features.

Audience member asked how far into the floodplain this build is planned. Stafford noted that most of the site is entirely out of the floodplain (the site planned to be built upon is out of the 100-year floodplain according to the latest FEMA maps).

Referring to the routing of traffic down 14th St., an audience member who tries to park everyday spoke to the dearth of spaces. Wood explained that they are not intending to need those parking spots.

Regarding budget for this project, Farnan spoke to the preliminary figure of approximately \$10 million (including \$5 million from the Community, Culture, and Safety Tax culture, \$2.8 million in impact fees, and \$1.4 million from the savings in the library reserve fund. Fundraising could assist.

Sykes Wilson questioned maintenance of the landscaping and liability of the playground. Farnan noted that there is still discussion with Parks and Recreation. Financial shortfalls from Library mean these outside items will be the first to be cut, opportunity for Parks and Recreation to step up to accomplish those items if desired.

Koenig was puzzled at the \$5 million asked for in the CCS tax – Farnan noted that he asked for 6 and got 5. Cost was more than expected. Koenig asked whether one can be sure that the shortfall can be met "before we break ground." Farnan explained that the architecture team has been alerted that budget might need to scale back to \$8.5 million. Teter, commenting on the City's Climate Commitment, asked for additional calculation that includes Net Zero qualification.

Sykes questioned timeline of fundraising for this building versus the districting election and balancing the deferred maintenance on existing buildings with desire for a brand-new building. With a district, this backlog of maintenance needs would be an issue for the board. Farnan noted that the groundwork for fundraising would be laid in summer 2019.

Teter thanked WorkAC for being so responsive to the community needs. Asked Gaona to clarify with the public that the commission does not represent the City; it concerns itself more with budget and interior programming than site planning and elements of design. Gomez requested that the commission clarify the format of the public comment as this meeting showed evidence of “too much back and forth.” May 8th determined as a more amenable date for the May commission meeting (one week later than usual). Also, to ensure enough space for the potential public audience, Seaton will reserve a larger room.

Agenda Item 6: Main Library restroom renovation project update

[2:11:30 Audio min.]

Gaona noted that the schematic design in the packet has been updated since yesterday afternoon. Included in [handouts](#). Very different from initial design, now a fully functional space. Motivations behind changes: privacy for caregivers, control of odors, line of sight issues. Door added to gender specific with additional signage. Half-wall removed to reduce compartmentalization (per Gomez’s suggestion). Water fountain space moved to outside the bathroom. Gaona noted input from caregivers she met for – a changing table near a sink and not in handicapped stall to allow better access. Spoke to the input about automatic flushers and hand driers being alarming to children (especially those on the spectrum). Effort to create a more serene atmosphere by incorporating elements such as a quiet Dyson design dispenser/dryer.

Planning and construction teams are “spec’ing” it out now, about 2 weeks behind the ambitious schedule. March start for construction (pushed back from February) with four-month construction window expected to overlap with Summer of Discovery, completed end of June. Working now with DAG (design advisory group) to develop talking points for library staff as this is such a progressive design. Artist recommendations collected by the end of this month will then go to the Arts Commission for February approval.

Agenda Item 7: Library Commission Update

[2:27:15 Audio min.]

a. Items from Commission

- i. Review/update Library Commission Handbook: no further input
- ii. Commissioner update on outreach to stakeholders
 1. upcoming meetings with community members interested in the campaign committee
- iii. Community education activities – Plan A/Plan B discussion
Staff ideas about what should be on the A/B list and how to better personalize these statistics (stories, anecdotes, pictures) to make these relatively abstract concepts real for community members.
 1. Aspen Walker provided Teter with the following updates: “1)We are working on getting the initial landing page “Funding Our Library Future” up later this week, and will add This American Life episode to the list of links. 2)Communications is refining the FAQ and it will be linked to on the landing page. 3)Alyssa Setia is working in a “Funding Our Library Future” graphic to tie together landing page, FB posts and newsletter articles. 4)[Aspen] will investigate library testimonial editing possibilities and reach out to Brenda Ritenour and Ryan Hanchion about messaging avenues available through the city’s community engagement team.” Webpage expected to go live 1/11. 2. Panel with FoCo is set for Feb. 4th 3. Channel 8 interviews with Teter and Farnan will air in February. 4. Sykes Wilson drafted first newsletter, now in Aspen Walker’s hands. 5. Koenig working on one-pager and Gomez/O’Shea working on talking points.

Teter to send along the preliminary Plan A/Plan B document to Patrick for his input. Gomez noted some generational disparity re: the term “Latinx,” primarily favored by younger people. She has no personal feeling against it, just curious. Farnan noted that this is becoming common parlance with the city communications.

- b. Boulder Library Foundation update – Sykes Wilson will begin serving on BLF and O’Shea plans to exit in order to concentrate on the campaign.
- c. City project representative update
Gomez will attend a workshop on Alpine Balsam on February 28th.
- d. Responses to patron emails from the Library Commission

Agenda Item 8: Library and Arts Director's Report**[2:55:00 Audio min.]**

- a. Update on library polling project
- b. New program ideas for 2019 BLF grants – Farnan noted the departure of staff running Summer of Discovery (Shannon Kincaid). As Kincaid vacates the role, funding has been scaled back significantly. Approval for a fulltime branch librarian and outreach staff.
- c. Upcoming rules of conduct review – preview of staff recommended revisions, discussed above. Teter would like clarification around why there is city policy prohibiting this type of behavior. Why does the library need a separate policy? Phares noted that it potentially wouldn't need to be separate, but she isn't sure at this point whether the city policy is public.

Agenda Item 9: Adjournment**[3:02:02 Audio min.]**

There being no further business to come before the commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned.

Date, time, and location of next meeting:

The next Library Commission meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, in the Canyon Meeting Room at the Main Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder, CO 80302.

Commissioner Teter approved these minutes on February 7, 2019; and Celia Seaton attested to it.