

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FAIRPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2008.

PRESENT

Greg Vogt
Suzanne Stockman
Beth Puckett
Beth White
Lori Wagoner

OTHERS

Betsy Gilbert
Tori Reilly
Lin Macholz

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Greg Vogt, President.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Beth White and seconded by Beth Puckett to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel at 3:10 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Beth Puckett and seconded by Lori Wagoner to come out of Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Public Forum began at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: approximately 30 residents, 6 staff members, 5 board members

Dr. Vogt: Introduction

Mrs. Stockman: Statistics on the level and demand for library services

Ms. Wagoner: Survey results

Ms. Puckett: Staff visioning

Ms. White: Summary of process to date

Questions from public:

Dick Sillick, Clinton Place: What is current square footage of library? Can library move to Karen's Crafts space?

Dr. Vogt: Karen's Crafts is 19K sq ft – would need to downsize to fit there

Diane Chichelli: Move childrens' room or offices to Karen's Crafts? Build a walkway that would come through parking garage space?

Dr. Vogt: This would require increased staff, plus problem with second floor load bearing

James Coone, West Church: Does parking lot belong to Rainaldi?

Ms. White: Lot belongs to village; garage belongs to this property

?: Against drive-ups; also relates to Walgreens issue – we should encourage pedestrianism

Mr. Coone: In favor of keeping library in village; moved here because of walking to library in the village. Take parking space and ramp to build. Keep in village and building new facility – like Pittsford. People who complain about taxes still support the library.

Dr. Vogt: Staying in village has been primary goal from the start.

Ms. White: Would need landlord approval to build in parking lot due to landlord's lease with the village

Dee Molinari, Packett's Grove: Is there a possibility of moving small shops and then moving library upstairs?

Ms. White: Presents problem with future flexibility of library site; also problem with investing public money into private property.

Carol Ann Britt, Roselawn: Move lightweight things upstairs – meeting room, childrens' room. Did you meet with original architect?

Dr. Vogt: Yes, the owner's architect was at a series of meetings

Ms. Britt: But what about the original architect (Barkstrom & Lacrois)

Ms. White: Owner's architect could not find the original plans for building

Ms. Britt: This is a dynamite location. Put reading room upstairs? It's under-used. Who uses the dumpster? Use dumpster area to build a 3-level staff area.

Ms. White: This space has been looked at but there are main utility lines along the north side of the building.

Kathy Porter, Nelson St: What is the timeline? Village will die without the library. Community is emotionally invested in keeping library here.

Dr. Vogt: Timeline – 2013 is lease expiration date, need to give notice by Feb 2012 if library does not want to renew lease. Would need to make a major decision by spring 2008 to start the process: inform community, design, get approvals from state, etc in order to give notice in 2012. Staying in village is top priority.

Mr. Sillick: How confident is board that library will stay in village?

Dr. Vogt: Keeping all options open, but options are limited.

Ms. White: Library would take Vix space in a heartbeat, but village can't control occupancy. Can put a second floor in Vix space. Looking at Karen's Crafts space still, but not totally viable yet.

Someone asked about condemning property for eminent domain (possibly Mr. Coone?).

Ms. White: People really don't like to do that. Still bad feelings about doing it 30 years ago.

Man: Library would be a truly public use of eminent domain, as opposed to private development.

Philip Yawman, Woodlawn: What if you don't think of this as a library, but as an economic generator for the community?

Mrs. Stockman: Board responsibility is to library.

Dee Monlinari: Have you gotten any cooperation from the landlord?

Mr. Yawman: Landlord needs to work as partner with library

Dr. Vogt: We have met with landlord

Donna Yawman: Barkstrom & Lacroix are original architects and are at 50 Chestnut St – they are still around.

Mr. Yawman: What is the relationship between FPL and the state and MCLS?

Dr. Vogt: Licensed by SED

Ms. Gilbert: A part of MCLS in terms of sharing resources, but still independent

Mr. Yawman: Get money from Albany? Grants? Assistance from SED? What would Wegmans do?

Gail Davis, South Main: What is village doing? What is their role?

Ms. White: Have met with village several times. They have been cooperative and supportive.

Wayne Shipman, West Ave: On village board; Kevin Clark is liaison to library but couldn't be here tonight – very involved to help library and keep communications open.

Mr. Shipman said he has had conversations with Rainaldi and has confidence Rainaldi will do what is right. He's sensitive to what goes on in the village and has a soft spot in his heart for the library.

Sharon Burke, South Ave: This is not only an emotional issue, it's an economic one. What is the impact of the library leaving? Has a study been done? Need to reach Rainaldi on an economic level. Do a study, get data on impact of loss of library on the rest of the complex, show Rainaldi to drive a business decision.

Mr. Coone: No business would draw in the crowds that the library does. Need to gain access to property owner through economic impact. Maintenance of urban centers is dependent on certain vital services. Losing the library would not be good for Fairport or for the entire town. Urban core is important. Generate a study?

Mr. Yawman: It seems the decision maker is nowhere to be found.

Mr. Coone: Play hardball – have Rainaldi go to owner saying library is leaving. Cost of dead property is enormous.

Chris Heisman: Discouraged because she wants to help library stay in village but there is no clear solution. How can we help? Can we get someone to explore ideas other than library board members who are busy with many other pressing needs? Solicit people in the community?

John Jorgen: Cost of gas, global warming, etc – parking requirements will decrease. What are future parking requirements – 20 – 50 years?

Ms. White: We don't make parking regulations; village would have to address this.

What is a comparable building size?

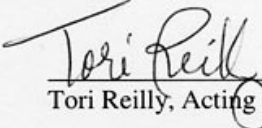
Ms. White: About 3 houses with yards. Regulations are 3 parking spots for every 1000 sq ft.

Steve Hopkins, South Main: How many spaces are in the garage? Least amount of construction would be to use garage for expansion.

Dee Molinari: How about an ad hoc committee? Work like the Fairport coalition to get word out.

Mike Ross, Woodlawn: Stated library in village is important to the community.

Forum adjourned at 9 p.m.



Tori Reilly, Acting Clerk to the Board