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Building Design Committee
April 26, 2010
8:30 am

A meeting of the Library Building Design Committee was held on the above date in the children's room of the Edgartown Free Public Library.

Members Present: Chris S., Mort Fearey, R. Knight, C. Watt, A. Tyra

Members Absent: Larry Mercier, Michael Donaroma,

Public Attendees: Felicia Cheney (Library Director), Art Smadbeck, Margaret Serpa, Courtney Brady, Ned Southworth, Janet Aldeborgh, Harriet Hoar, Rob Hughes, Patricia Rose,

Meeting called to order at 8:34 a.m.

R. Knight moved to approve the minutes of April 8, 2010. C. Watt seconded. Approved unanimously.

M. Fearey moved to officially name this committee the "Building Design Committee." C. Scott seconded. Approved unanimously.

C.Scott congratulated the committee on a good presentation at the annual town meeting and the subsequent approval of the article for \$300,000. The question of a narrow margin of approval on the ballot vote could be explained by a number of factors including but not limited to: a bloc of voters who vote no on all Prop 2 ½ override questions, concern over the abandonment of the old plan, concern over spending more money on a project that has not shown much obvious progress; the economy; and voters not believing that now is the time to expand the library.

A.Smadbeck said that he supported a dual campus approach, and that he felt strongly that the Carnegie building should be used in some library capacity.

M.Serpa reminded the Committee that CPA money was previously approved and that more money would likely be available if needed for restoring the Carnegie building. She also noted that the West Tisbury town hall looked exceptional, and that we should strive for equally impressive results.

C.Scott reiterated the short time frame that the Committee has to work with. The Committee should get a plan together and then educate the voters.

Discussion ensued regarding what a dual campus would entail. Perhaps it would include seasonal, reduced services downtown, cutting staff back in the winter, and/or sharing space with the Council on Aging.

The Committee also discussed the need for revisiting the space needs depicted in the last grant. A.Smadbeck suggested putting together census numbers and robust estimates for future population numbers. C. Watt and L. Mercier will analyze the demographics.

A. Tyra presented her rough action time line and explained it. M. Fearey said he thought a professional should look at the space before late summer. C. Scott agreed with M. Fearey and with A. Tyra and suggested that we look for a professional architect or building consultant as well as follow up on the other items on A. Tyra's suggested time line C. Scott and M. Fearey will meet with P. Dolby to discuss RFQ considerations.

Public Comment: C. Brady expressed concern that the Edgartown Library Foundation was not represented at the Committee's table. She also expressed concern that the Selectmen were unduly represented. M.Serpa responded that she and A.Smadbeck were sitting in for absent members but were not voting participants.

R. Hughes said that the Committee should remember that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' grant "doesn't wag the dog," and that this Committee can determine the needs of the town library to present to the MBLC.

J. Aldeborgh would like the committee address the Edgartown Library Foundation to help them explain the situation to their donors. C. Scott reiterated that the Committee would need to know the future site of the library by June 30, 2010, if not sooner. Also, C. Scott reminded everyone that any plan presented by this Committee must be approved by a town vote before it can be implemented.

H.Hoar suggested that we send a simple survey to the voters asking where they would like to see the library located. She also stated that based on her business experience seasonal visitors did not consider the library an important part of their experience.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Approved:

Felicia Cheney

Chris Scott, Chairman