

Oregon City Library Board

Minutes

Regular Meeting

June 12, 2013

4:30 PM

625 Center Street

Oregon City, OR 97045

ATTENDING: Fred Haynes; DA Hildebrand; Claire Kellogg; Lara Ingham – Vice Chair; Dan Millard; Karin Morey; Don Wright – Chair; Kathy Roth – City Commission President; Maureen Cole – Library Director; Lynda Ackerson – Library Manager

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Don Wright called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment on items not on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the May meeting were approved as written.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Library Director Maureen Cole presented a staff recommendation that the Library Board advance the Carnegie Library and Carnegie Park to the City Commission as the preferred site for the new Oregon City Public Library. She reviewed her staff report which included the criteria that staff used in determining a new site: proper zoning for a library; site within the City limits; proximity to public transportation; no negative impact on the tax rolls if possible; space for building greater than 20,000 square feet. Staff looked at more than 32 possible sites, and these were narrowed down to five sites that were moved forward to the conceptual site planning stage. A letter of intent also went to one site, and an offer to purchase land from the County for a site was turned down. Although there were some problems, such as parking and not being in the center of the library's service area, the Carnegie was always in the back of some people's minds as a good place for the expansion. As other sites became less desirable for different reasons, staff realized the current Carnegie site actually met all of our criteria – it is on City owned land; it is big enough for an addition; it has been used as a library, so zoning is not a problem; we have shown that the library is a good neighbor to the community, and the site is historically and functionally sustainable. If the Board chooses to forward the recommendation to the City Commission and if the Commission accepts the recommendation, next steps would include a parking and transportation study, as well as continuing the study of the historic impact of such an addition.

- Architect David Keltner from THA presented three conceptual drawing of what a possible addition to the Carnegie might look like. The size would be approximately 22,000 square feet. One drawing showed a two story building addition, one showed a one story building addition, and the third showed a concept of what the building might look like with a terraced green roof on the addition to replicate the slope of the park. All three additions would be built on to the back of the building, keeping the original building intact. David explained that the National Registry of Historic Places has guidelines for additions to historic buildings. Their guidelines state that additions must maintain the historic integrity of the original building by not making the addition look like the existing building, but by making it compatible to the original.
- Matt Newstom from Cresa Partners was asked about a timeline for a new building. He has worked up a preliminary timeline in which a building might be ready by September 2015...assuming we got started immediately. He also made it clear that this timeline would be adjusted as the process proceeds.
- Based on the presentation by THA, Maureen Cole feels that we can now see the possibilities for expansion at the current site. We can have a useful, vibrant civic building in a part of the City that will enhance other City business, while at the same time building a wonderful library without ruining the integrity of the park or the current library building. Acknowledging that there are still issues that must be solved, Director Cole asked the Library Board to recommend that the recommendation to designate the Carnegie Park and Library as the site of our future expansion be advanced to the City Commission.
- Board member Karin Morey commented that after the preliminary planning, there will be at least two future phases for public input in the planning and design phases of the project.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
 - ...Alice Watts – McLoughlin neighborhood resident – likes the concept but is concerned about parking issues
 - ...Bill Daniels – McLoughlin neighborhood resident – would like to see the Carnegie kept as a library as well as building a new building that is more centrally located. He prefers a joint library/police building on the current police site
- **BOARD DISCUSSION:** There being no discussion, Board member Fred Haynes made a motion that the Library Board recommend to the City Commission that they move forward and accept the staff recommendation to expand on the current Carnegie site. There were multiple seconds and the motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: We continue to have a steady 2-3% rise in circulation each month. Our first Business program, collaborating with Eric Underwood was a success. We have started our Read Down Your Fines program for children, as well as the Library Passport program on May 1st. We are looking into having storytimes 6 days a week beginning in September, including a Saturday storytime. We are currently planning next year's programs, and getting ready for next week's 100th anniversary celebration.

MEMBER REPORTS: Karin Morey commented that in the 70's- 90's there was not as much interest in expanding the Carnegie site because people wanted everything to be new. In the process, many old

buildings were lost. That attitude has shifted and now people are more interested in historical preservation and working with the National Heritage and Park Service coming up with new designs that respect the older buildings.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regular meeting will be July 10 at 4:30 pm at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Don Wright adjourned the meeting at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Ackerson