



**THE LIBRARY COMMISSION
AMENDED MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
26, September, 2011**

The Library Commission convened in a regular Meeting on Monday, September 26, 2011 at the Austin History Center at 810 Guadalupe St. in Austin, Texas.

Chair Carol Martin called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Carol Martin, Vice Chair Wendy Price Todd, Dave Fox, Carolyn Goldston, Peggy Lee Pleasant, Ben Ornelas and Olga Wise

Board Members Absent: None

Staff in Attendance: Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries; Toni Lambert, Assistant Director of Libraries; Dana McBee, John Gillum, Facilities Process Manager; Heidi Tse, Library Building Improvement Coordinator; Terry Jennings, Programs Specialist; Toni Grasso, Administrative Manager; Cyndi Jordan, Project Manager, PWD

1. Citizen Communication: None

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Regular Called Meeting of 8/22/2011 were approved on a 6-0-1 vote Those members voting aye were: Chair Martin, Vice Chair Price Todd and Commission Members Fox, Ornelas and Pleasant
Abstained–Commission Member Goldston abstained due to being absent during the August meeting

3. New Business

- a. New Central Library 30% Schematic Design Presentation - Presented by The Joint Venture of Lake | Flato Architects and Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott Steve Raike of Lake/Flato Architects and Lynn Petermann of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott Architects
(The presentation has been uploaded to APL's website.

<http://www.austinlibrary.com/files/schematic30pctpresentation.pdf>)

Commission Questions/Comments

Commission Chair Martin

- 1) loved the open spaces
- 2) How are the acoustic challenges being addressed? The interior finishes and setup of materials will help to mitigate noise. Noise will be contained in the center of the building. The atrium perimeter will be closed off.

- 3) Are the operational needs being met? At this time the design is only to show what the building will look like. The operational elements have not been put in place yet but the design will meet the needs.
- 4) How will the building be lit? It will be as naturally illuminated as possible.
- 5) Is there a parking diagram? That has not been worked out yet.

Commission Member Pleasant

- 1) How are the suggestions from the Library Futurist being implemented? The City of Austin Executive team working on the library met with Joan Frye Williams and Dr. Julie Todaro, Dean of Library Services with ACC. Joan Frye Williams' input has been invaluable to the design of the New Central Library. Her ideas on how to make this building adapt to the future needs of its customers have been considered in every detail.
- 2) What LEED certification is APL going for? The new library will be silver certified
- 3) Will the parking be free? The answer is still under debate. Library users will probably be able to get their tickets validated for a certain amount of time. The issue of parking will be decided district-wide.
- 4) Who will operate the bookstore? APL will be operating the bookstore so the inventory will consist of donated and withdrawn library materials. It will be a satellite of the current Recycled Reads.

Commission Member Goldston

- 1) On the Level 1 slide, what are the semi-circles on the east side of the building near the creek? This is a placeholder for possible features. It could be a seating area or small amphitheater. This area is out of the scope of the building project. It is, however, part of the COA's future plan for redeveloping the area next to Shoal Creek.
- 2) Expressed safety issues with the railing and stairs shown. One level's only access from the elevator is to cross a bridge. The stairs have been designed so that they are not a continuous staircase, but rather broken up into single flights. Also, there will be elevators to take customers to the various levels of the building.
- 3) How will non-library users be kept from using the parking? The designers are working with a parking consultant to take into consideration all parking issues. Also, it's anticipated that this particular area of downtown will have several other parking garages built over the next few years.
- 4) How many elevators? Three elevators are included in the design. There will be one freight elevator for staff. This meets the code requirements for anticipated building usage.

Commission Member Ornelas

- 1) Are the seats in the event forum stationary? The seating is tiered and will be able to be removed and stored on site.
- 2) What way will the solar panels face? The array will be placed in the necessary manner in order to be the most efficient.
- 3) Will there be water collection? There is currently an underground vault left from the Seaholm Power Plant that is being considered as a storage device for the water collected from the building.

Commission Member Wise

- 1) Expressed safety concerns with the stairs, railings and bridge.

- 2) How many banks of elevators will there be? The plan calls for 3 elevators that are grouped together. This number along with their size actually exceeds what is necessary for a building this size.
- 3) How will children be kept from throwing books off the porches? The porches will be screened in.
- 4) What about the grading? There is a 12 foot difference in the grade between Second Street and Cesar Chavez.
- 5) How will trail hikers access the library? There is the tunnel that runs along Shoal Creek, also pedestrian crossing may be built.
- 6) Where does the building sit in the flood plain? The building will be 6 feet higher than the 100 year flood plain.

Commission Member Fox

- 1) Are the mechanical/operational needs of the staff being met with an elevator?
There will be one freight elevator for staff
- 2) What's the footprint of the site and the building? The site is 215 feet in each direction and the building is 200 square feet.
- 3) How does underground storage compare to the current building? That was part of the design program and followed APL's requirements.
- 4) Are there structures on the roof chillers? They are skylights designed to bring in sunlight in an indirect way, the HVAC system is in the basement.
- 5) Where does the Art in Public Places piece fit into the design? Part of the challenge is to include this piece, it will most likely be an interior piece.
- 6) Will there be plenty of power available for laptops? This building will be well supplied with power outlets to accommodate the customer's power needs.

Vice Chair Todd

- 1) Is there an APL technology consultant involved to make sure that bandwidth will be adequate? A consultant is working with the COA Communications & Technology Management Department.
Amended to: How will adequate bandwidth be met?
- 2) How will the event forum space be managed so that it will serve the different needs? A staff person will be hired to manage the events.
Amended to: How will event forum space accommodate programming?
- 3) Are there diagrams that show the public and private spaces? The interior has not been designed yet. The architects used place holders only.
Amended to: Are there diagrams that show public and private spaces? Can there be diagrams available at the next presentation? The interiors have not been designed, only allocated square footage. The schematic design is about building the envelope.
- 4) What is being done to let the citizens of Austin know about the efforts put forth to make this building as green as possible? One of the LEED credits will be an education credit that is received by doing just that, teaching about the green aspects of the building.
Amended to: How will the citizens of Austin be aware of the building's green features?
- 5) Will pedestrians coming from the Shoal Creek trail have to cross the Lance Armstrong Bikeway? It's still too early to know what precautions will be put in

place to prevent accidents but everything will be considered. Staff is working with Public Works and the bike community.

- 6) **Amended to:** To address the concern for child-friendly outdoor places from the COA Urban Parks Work Group, the proposed screen porch and green roof garden as well as the project's proximity to Shoal Creek will provide outdoor play opportunities on a modest-sized site relative to the building program.

Citizen Input/Questions

Camille Perry

- 1) How will noise be kept from creeping into the designated quiet areas? The fourth floor has a reading room that is approximately 2500 sq. ft. and will be completely enclosed. Moreover, sound absorbing materials will be used throughout the building.
- 2) Expressed safety concerns with the stairs, railings and bridge.
- 3) Will AC condensation be collected? Yes
- 4) Where will customer enter/exit the parking garage and how many entrances will there be? The only entrance/exit to the parking garage will be on West Avenue which has yet to be constructed.
- 5) Will food be allowed throughout the library? Food will only be allowed in the café.

Other citizens

- 1) Where will the computers be located and how many of them will there be? There will be approximately 100 computers throughout the library. They will be clustered at various locations yet to be determined.
- 2) What is the sq. footage of the roof garden and who will maintain it? The sq. footage will be approximately 3000 sq. ft. and it will be maintained by APL.
- 3) Will there be more staff necessary to run the new library? Not significantly. A new staffing model will have to be devised but it's too early to say for sure
- 4) Will the building be tied into Austin Energy's chilled water system? Yes
- 5) How will heat loss be kept down with all the glass? The glass will be treated differently on each side of the building.

b. Branch Liaison Briefings – none at this time

c. Staff Briefings

- 1) Facilities Update: see Director's Report
- 2) The Commission was presented with a list of potential staff presentations and asked to prioritize them.
- 3) The Faulk Central Library will be reducing its hours Monday-Thursday starting October 3, 2011
- 4) Effective October 1, 2011 APL will no longer waive fees unless the reason is listed in the Fee Schedule
- 5) The new exhibit *Sounding Together: 100 Years of the Austin Symphony* opened at the Austin History Center. To mark the opening of the exhibit the Austin History Center and the Austin Symphony Orchestra Society, Inc will co-host a musical event at the Wooldridge Square Park, on October 2, 2011
- 6) The Austin Teen Book Festival takes place October 1, 2011 at the Palmer Event Center

4. Future Agenda Items

- a. Election of officers
- b. The 2012 meeting schedule

Adjourn: Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m. without objection.