

## **Library Subcommittee Meeting Summary**

March 20, 2108

7-9 p.m.

Career Center

### **Attendees:**

Kathleen McSweeney

Theresa Flynn (resource)

Carrie Johnson

Sarah M for Lander

Gale K (resource)

Nancy B

Matt M

Betty Siegel

### *Members not present*

Kim Phillip

Cecilia Cassidy (CPRO)

Bonnie Mangan

### Handouts

- Agenda
- Briefing paper
- Presentation from Diane K presented 2/21/18
- CCWG Charge

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### **Subcommittee structure, meeting dates and deliverables**

- Nancy B will chair the public library subcommittee
- Subcommittee meeting schedule:
  - April 10 @ 7pm – location TBD (library an option)
  - April 26
  - May 3
- Final report out on May 21
- Will provide an progress update to the CCWG on April 12
- Will provide an update to the Joint Work Session on April 17

### **Goals of subcommittee**

Page 3 of the CCWG charge:

- Recommend how the library could be accommodated post-2022
- Recommend a general cost estimate for a potential library move

- Also consider:
  - Members of the School Board have met with ECDC to gauge interest; Further outreach and ultimate negotiations would likely fall on the County Board should the property be involved in any library relocation plans
  - At this stage, it is difficult to provide a cost estimate for any relocation because of the uncertainty regarding the future of the South Block
- The subcommittee could:
  - Provide feedback on phasing
  - Provide various options/scenarios (best to least favorite)
  - Take temperature on expansion, program relocation, funding from the group

**Summary of Library White Paper and Feb 21 Presentation by Library Staff**

T Flynn overview of the paper:

- The options section is most useful to this group (can weigh what does/doesn't work)
- Pages 2-4 discuss co-location
- Bottom page 5 and page 6: non-negotiables

Gale K summarized 2/21 presentation given by Diane K

Subcommittee members believe Option 2 outlined in the paper makes the most sense

**Question: Is the current library space adequate?**

- GK said that the min should be 20K square feet min (includes both floors)
  - This is the size of the current library
- Library hosts many activities
- Population is growing
- Parking is scarce especially during the week and spaces are not technically reserved

**Question: When is the library used the most?**

- Rush hours at this branch 10am-Noon; 3:30-6pm, and Sundays

**Question: What dedicated parking is provided at other libraries?**

- This library only has 20 (although they are simply labeled "2-hour limit")
- Quincy Street (central library) has shared surface and underground parking available

**Information requests:**

- 1) List of parking allocations for all Arlington libraries
- 2) General information regarding parking in the area (zoning requirements on the Pike)

**Comment: Critical that this library stay in this area**

- There was a previous effort to move this library
- Neighborhood protested
- All renderings seen to date show the library remaining in place or on the campus

**Question: Is it possible to relocate the library to Columbia Pike?**

- If the library was moved to Columbia Pike, the recommendation would be for the County to fund it
- The move would allow for use of public transit and dedicated parking spaces
- Could house a performance space (like the arrangement with Shirlington library and Signature Theater)
- More access and more visibility on the Pike – likely increase use by public
- Could expand the programming it's doing now

**Question: How is the library at Shirlington funded?**

- Via bonding.

**Question: Which library is the newest?**

- Westover

**Question: What's the County's willingness to create a counterpart to the central library in South Arlington?**

- This library has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest usage to Shirlington
- B/c the library is housed within the school, the facility belongs to the school

**Comments/Suggestions/Recommendations**

- County should explore options to acquire the ECDC property
  - ECDC wants to sell property (especially the building located closer to Pike)
  - Could allow the library to expand (beyond 20k sq ft)
  - Library on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
  - Gale K noted that the preference is to be located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor as it is better suited for younger patrons (strollers, easier to get kids around)
    - Biggest events tend to be story telling time for pre-schoolers
- If ECDC doesn't work out, using Fenwick would be possible (as shown in scenarios)

**Question: Can the library be primarily used/designed for the community?**

- In this area, most of the joint amenities give preference to schools
- Would be good to have a space dedicated to the library
- Would be nice to have a library with a playground

**Question: Opportunities for co-location?**

- Not an option to do so with APS because of what's happening currently in libraries (homeless, drug issues); non-restrictive internet access
- State guidelines say that the librarian must be part of the school, not the County so 2 librarians and two collections would be needed (one for APS, one for County)
- Possible space for Black Heritage Museum
- If ACHS was co-located with the Public Library, not so much a security issue.

- Provide tech space on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor (e.g., cosmetology)
  - Services would get more traffic -> more PBL option

**Question: Are there non-core library functions that could be used for HS students?**

- Meeting rooms

**Question: What is the status of libraries on the site?**

- Career Center has a librarian and budget but no physical library
  - When Arl Tech has 500 students, a library will be required
- ACHS has a small library and librarian
  - Includes a specific library geared towards its students

**Question: Anticipated number of new Arl Tech students for SY2018-19?**

Approx. 120+ students have accepted seats at Arl Tech

**Question: What spaces do libraries need?**

- Tutoring rooms
- Medium meeting rooms
- Large meeting rooms
  - Children’s activities (e.g., book reads are very popular)
- Teen space
- In this community:
  - Public computers meet the needs so no more computers needed
  - Library provides community activities for all ages (e.g., 55+ “groovin’ on the pike”)
  - New Americans area
- In the new library, it would be nice to have
  - Early literacy center for younger children
    - Would draw people here b/c it would be unique to No Va
      - (see example in Silver Spring library)
  - Another makers space that is flexible (not specific to any one technology)

**Question: Does anything need to happen in the next 5 years for the library?**

- Should be fine until school needs to open (approx. 4 years)

**Question: What support does the County provide to library?**

- County only pays for staffing
- Programming is funded through “friends of the library”

**Recommendations**

- The library remains in operation until it moves to the Pike within the neighborhood – without any down time
- Non-negotiable: Closing the library before the new one is built

**April 10 Meeting Information Recap:**

- Construction costs for 2 newest libraries (include year libraries opened)
- Parking: dedicated spaces at other libraries and parking regs along the Pike
- Information about library remodeling in the surrounding area (e.g., Fairfax, D.C.)
- Discuss option 2 from the briefing paper
  - Massing allowed
  - Other complementary uses in a new building for the public library (services, performance space, BHM space, ACHS, NOVA [lease back])

**Note:** Provide public notice for upcoming meetings