

Building Committee Minutes

Oregon Public Library

Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 5:30 PM

Location: Oregon Village Hall Community Room, 117 Spring St., Oregon, WI 53575

1. **Call to order** Jenny Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
2. **Introductions & Roll Call** Jenny Nelson, Kyle Severson (arr. 5:36pm), Amanda Peterson, Jenna Jacobson (arr. 5:43pm), John Bieno, John Bonsett-Veal, Megwyn Sanders-Andrews.
Attending from OPN Architects were Mindy Sorg, Wes Reynolds and Brett Rottinghaus. Jennifer Endres Way, Library Director, Mary Davidson, Assistant Director (recorder), also attended.
3. **Adopt/amend agenda** Motion made by John Bieno to adopt the agenda as written. Amanda Peterson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
4. **Public Comment/Citizen Appearance/Scheduled Guests- in order by appearance:**
 - a. Sara Dewey, 266 N. Main St., Oregon WI – Reported on her analysis of the current parking lot's use, between April 24 and May 7th. During 10 visits, she counted a low of 5 spots in use, and a high of 24. She strongly advised the committee do a usage study.
 - b. Mike Wunsch- 299 N. Main St., Oregon WI – Referred to the 120 parking spots mandated by the ordinance, stating those spots don't need to be onsite. He stated there are 61 spots at Netherwood Knoll Elementary, with a total of 139 spots in the downtown area. He suggested planning for enough parking to handle average daily use, instead of the larger library events, for a total of 50-60 parking spots.
 - c. Dana Teske - 126 Johnson St, Oregon WI – Asked that the committee remember the results of the community input sessions, where there was lots of interest in green space. She stated if 120 parking spots aren't used, that would be a waste of taxpayer money. She wants to encourage people to access the space by foot, and bike; to encourage sustainability, as taught by OSD; and consider possible solutions like using the parking spaces nearby. She thought additional areas could be paved later, if 120 spaces are really needed.
 - d. Kermit Traska, 116 W. Lincoln St, Oregon WI – Referred to the gullies that have developed as a result of the recent rains. He stated the neighborhood association is in favor of a library for library purposes, and questions whether a meeting room should be built to accommodate non-library purposes.
 - e. Alice Ferrell, 290 Market St, Oregon WI – Spoke of the history of water problems in the neighborhood. She questions the need for 120 parking spots, wants the green space preserved, and doesn't want to see a parking lot full of cars when she looks out her windows.
5. **Discussion and Possible Action Items**
 - a. Library Visits & Benchmarking- Visits of area libraries would give committee members the opportunity to view those spaces and talk to the director and staff. Way will send a poll for all to note their availability.
 - b. Library Programming- Mindy Sorg defined the "library program" as the menu of all the things that go into the library. She and Way are working on the staff and meeting spaces, and next will discuss the collection. She assigns a square foot accommodation to each space in order to get to the total.
 - c. Site Plans and Considerations- The 4 options presented at the last meeting were reviewed, and refined into 3. Adjustments were made to take advantage of natural light, the grading, movement throughout the building, views from Main St., saving the most trees, the book return, staff support and community spaces. Possible future additions were highlighted on each model.
 - d. Building Layout Options and Considerations- Way met with Arbor Systems, who will survey the trees over the next two weeks and provide recommendations. Grading questions were discussed. The challenges of locating the book drop and the popularity of the book drop were discussed. A possible traffic study was mentioned.
Option 3 was preferred for the following reasons: it incorporates more of the natural world, there's a large green space on the SW corner of the lot, which could be used by young children; there's a natural separation for a quieter space as well; there's an abundance of diffused light; a connection to Main St. where activity can be viewed; the book drop area is towards the west; the sight lines indicate less signage would be needed; a few parking spots for "10 minute" quick stop were suggested; the green space could be

more tranquil or reflective; there's more opportunity for plant growth. The suggestion was made to flip the floor plan, but that would mean the book return would be on a basement level, due to the grade, but as a plus, the staff support area would be away from Main St.

John Bieno made the motion to approve option 3 as a starting point for continued conversation.

John Bonsett-Veal seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Wes Reynolds spoke to the parking concerns. He said the size of the parking lot can't be considered using the Brook St. location as a reference point. For example, on any given day, if a staff of 10 are working in the building, 2 volunteers, 5 people working at computers, 55 kids at a storytime (coming in a total of 37 cars), 20 people using library resources and 40 people are attending another event, that's a total of 114 parking stalls in use. He stated the village ordinance dictates the number of parking stalls, and that if the construction is done at the same time, it's more cost effective. He is confident that with their storm water consultant they'll be able to handle the runoff.

- e. Selection of Next Meeting Date(s)- Way will send a doodle poll with options for the next two meetings which will consist of feedback on program confirmation, initial floor plan layout, and massing opportunities.
- f. Contacting Building Committee Members- Way will serve as the conduit to forward feedback. An online form was also setup.
- g. Public Comments from Oregon Near North Main Street Neighborhood Association Regarding New Library- Sara Dewey, 266 N. Main St, Oregon WI – Remove the drive up book drop from the plans; Consider a one-way traffic pattern; Make educated, informed decisions so there isn't any wasted space, especially in lobby areas.

Susan Shedivy, 1860 Cty Rd. MM, Fitchburg, WI – Talk to other libraries about their parking spaces; Wants large green space so users can look out library windows over that green space, not a parking lot; Wants group to visit more than 2 libraries, and doesn't want them to visit Fitchburg's library.

Brent Teske, 126 Johnson St, Oregon WI - No one in the neighborhood wants to look out at cars; Feels there is plenty of street parking in a 3 block radius so the library should get a variance; He doesn't want the last downtown green space paved.

Mike Wunsch, 299 N. Main St, Oregon WI – Preserve green spaces for the community and the neighborhood; Concerned about water runoff; There won't be room for retention pond with all the parking spaces; If you build large parking lots, you'll need to build berms to the neighbors won't have to look at the acres of black top.

Carol Bloom, 219 N. Main, Oregon WI – Stated there's too much speeding on North Main St.

Sara Dewey, 266 N. Main St, Oregon WI – Said putting a signal light by her house isn't an option.

Rae Vogeler, 299 N. Main St, Oregon WI - Referred to the letter from neighbors; Said they are used to beautiful green space which they currently utilize as a neighborhood; Said the architects aren't thinking outside the box; Stressed the need for another neighborhood resident be appointed to the Building Committee.

Susan Shedivy, 1860 Cty Rd MM, Fitchburg, WI – Shared a phrase from the Joni Mitchell tune, "they paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

6. Informational Items

- a. Letter from Oregon Near North Main Street Neighborhood Association Residents (5/02/2019)
- b. Storm water Pond Images- softer ways to approach, and more organic- Provided by John Bieno.
- c. Informational Handout on Open Meetings- Provided by Attorney Matt Dregne.
- d. Community Member Feedback on New Library- Compilation of suggestions received to date.

7. Adjournment- John Bieno made the motion to adjourn at 8:10pm, Kyle Severson seconded. Motion carried 7-0.