

WABASH CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Meeting of Tuesday, May 26, 2021

Falls Cemetery Chapel

745 Falls Ave, Wabash, IN 46992

5:30 p.m.

The Board of Trustees of the Wabash Carnegie Public Library met in regular session and through Zoom conference call at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2021. Notice was posted of this meeting pursuant to Indiana Code Sec. 5-14-1.5-5(a) (b). Members present were Charles Miller, presiding; Jim Widner; Mary Jo McClelland; Rhonda Hipkind; Bill Benysh; Jeff Knee; and Susan L Baker. Also present was Ware Wimberly, Executive Director. Two people from the public were attendance by Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER: Charles Miller called the Special Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION BY ZAC BENEDICT (MKM ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN)

Zach Benedict of MKM Architecture + Design met with Trustees. Zach went over at presentation packet that included important questions the Board needs to address, a draft of projected financial costs, and a map of a future vision of renovation or expansion. A key is determining if any renovation involves a future expansion building.

Items such as the HVAC system would be determined if to be included in any work. The scope would depend strongly on whether to expand or not. Key determinants of the project and project schedule were discussed extensively. The lack of a children's programming area is the primary space need of this current building and is the greatest challenge. Zach's recommendations as the principal architect will significantly depend on if expansion is what the Board was to pursue. The library had investigated the option of Bond but felt factors were not suitable to follow that.

The library believes it has funds from reverses and gifts that could cover the first part of the project. Trustees and Zach discussed various budget factors, including differed costs, various library funds, possible schedules, naming rights, the role of the City Council, etc.

Following discussion, it was the agreement to work toward the expansion of the building. In the discussion, it was asked if the two phrases should be flipped in the sense the expansion part is the phrase one and the renovation of the inside as phrase two. In this scenario, construction costs and infrastructure would be addressed in phrase #1. Having the public witness the work in progress of

adding on might also create a lot of buzz from the community. Also, doing the construction costs and infrastructure first would help keep the building open more during this time. Any construction will be very loud, obviously, and staff would have to adjust as needed. Going this way would also ease the concern with permanent programming space for Youth Services. Adding a third floor was also discussed, but factors didn't seem to be the best option.

The Board decided to proceed with MKM to plan and map the renovation and expansion process. It was agreed to give Zack Benedict of MKM the ok to proceed.

Action: Rhonda Hipskind moved it to MKM to plan and map out a 2-phase project that would begin with the first phase adding to the library building. Mary Jo McClelland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Action: It was moved by Susan L. Baker and seconded by Bill Benysh adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ware W. Wimberly III, Executive Director