

Library Building Committee Minutes

October 14, 2025

Present: Tabitha McCrohan, Carol Buote, Matt Chabot, Dean Larabee, Megan Silva, Brian Bianchi

Present Via Zoom: Jennifer McGrory, Eileen C., Daniel G., David N.

- 1. Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.**
- 2. Review of July minutes were tabled.** Minutes were not printed out for this meeting.
- 3. Introductions of all participants.** See list of participants above.
- 4. Review of progress on feasibility and design phase of project.** Site A is confirmed as preferred choice for the new library. Survey has begun. Five proposed design schemes were shared with Committee members, along with comments from Andrea at MBLC. CBT would like to meet with Committee at least two more times before Lights event.
- 5. Discussion and feedback on five proposed designs.**
 - A. Committee members were concerned about the large footprint of all the proposals, which would eliminate a large part of the open space of the Green. Agreement with the need to continue to use Green for concerts, Muster, car show, etc. Removing baseball field fence would give more open space to southern end of the Green. It was noted that the COA craft fair successfully uses the south end. Also, the current concert vendors could be organized more compactly in the space between the Museum and the parking lot.
 - B. Committee has no plans for the use of current building. Demolishing the building to have an ideal location for the new one was briefly considered and dismissed. The current library building is on the National list of Historic landmarks.
 - C. Need to have parking lot closer to the building. Consideration of moving the parking lot completely did not go far. MBLC grant would cover handicap ramp, but not parking lot or other landscaping.
 - D. Importance of separate children, teen, and adult areas to minimize noise and for safety reasons. Glass partitions would assist this while allowing supervision.

- E. Appreciation of book drop directly into the building, not necessarily into tech staff area, preventing loss of books to dampness in current book drop.
- F. Suggestion was made to minimize footprint by developing a two-story design with an estimate of the additional cost of stairs and elevator. Staffing two stories would be as difficult as it is now.
- G. Each design was reviewed in turn. Although formal vote was not taken, the consensus of Committee agreed that designs #1 and #5 ought to be developed further, taking above concerns into account.
- H. **Next meeting was set for 10/27 at 7 pm. Weekly meetings with CHA and CBT will continue Tuesdays at 3 pm.**
- I. **Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.**