



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH LIBRARY LECTURE HALL DESIGN COMMITTEE MINUTES

**100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Coast Room (Bay 2E)
Monday, February 3, 2020 3:00 PM**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Johnson-Tucker called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker, Vice Chair Janet Ray, Committee Member Diane Dixon, Committee Member Karen Clark, Committee Member Matthew Witte (arrived late)

Absent: None

III. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

None.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Mosher addressed the committee regarding the bamboo courtyard and the legal conditions. He noted he was unable to find past Committee or City Council meeting minutes regarding the courtyard but was able to find that Rotary Club of Okazaki had donated \$10,000 to the Library.

Tim Hetherton stated the Foundation's research was similar.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. *Approval of Minutes*

A motion was made by Vice Chair Ray, and was seconded by Committee Member Dixon, to approve the Draft Minutes of the January 6, 2020 and January 21, 2020, Library Lecture Hall Design Committee Meeting, as corrected.

The motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

AYES: Clark, Dixon, Ray, Johnson-Tucker

NOES: None

ABSENT: Witte

ABSTAIN: None

VI. CURRENT BUSINESS

1. *Robert Coffee and the architectural team to the Library Lecture Hall Design Committee presentation and discussion of possible interior layouts*

Mr. Coffee stated the discussion would center around the use and function of outdoor spaces. He stated he's taken photographs of the space and would like to have a conversation regarding the needed functions and the Committee's ideas.

He asked for reactions and ideas so the group can take the information and create an outline for the fit of the building that includes orientation, configuration, and some architectural ideas.

Mr. Coffee showed several images of the L-shaped courtyard. He spoke regarding the courtyard's layout and its location in relation to the sidewalk. He also discussed the layout of the courtyard on the inside.

Chair Johnson-Tucker explained she would like for the courtyard to be bigger to serve as a pre or post function space for the lecture hall, accommodating 300 people. She questioned whether the space would be suitable for a tent for occasional special events.

Committee Member Witte asked the Committee to consider whether there is any other outdoor space expanding the capacity. He asked whether they've discussed the pedestrian connection between these spaces and Avocado Highway.

Mr. Coffee agreed it is important to discuss whether the courtyard would be independent or an extension of the library and he noted there are a lot of variables, for example, seating.

Committee Member Witte drew a diagram and discussed whether the spaces needed to be connected. He stated the Committee needs to let the architectural group know whether there will be two ways in or one. He spoke of ingress and egress and asked the Committee to consider the issue of control.

The Committee discussed the entryway and the access from the parking.

Committee Member Dixon asked the Committee to consider that this is a lecture hall and the courtyard is almost a different project. She asked that to the extent this discussion isn't related to the lecture hall itself, that it would be part of a different project.

Mr. Coffee disagreed and stated the building has to share the courtyard and they should both be considered

Chair Johnson-Tucker reminded the group the RFP did include expanding the courtyard so it is on the same plane as the lecture hall, and does not intersect the lobby in the middle.

Mr. Coffee explained why the immediate outdoor space and access issues do have to be a part of the project. He showed the committee how the lobby of the building would flow directly into the courtyard, and that the courtyard becomes an important extension of the building. He went on to explain that to the extent the lobby must be reduced to fit on the site, the courtyard will fill the need for a gathering space.

Committee Member Witte noted there would not be too much money spent there because it entails removing a wall and combining the space.

Discussion ensued about the current state of the courtyard, and deferred maintenance.

Committee Member Dixon stated she likes the idea of making the space an extension.

Committee Member Witte asked Mr. Coffee whether he had ideas for the space.

Mr. Coffee noted they have never considered the project without taking into account the courtyard space.

Mr. Coffee stated that the lecture hall square footage right now for everything that is being requested is 9,000 square feet instead of 7,000 square feet, and that the architectural team is working to get that number back down. He explained that part of the increase in size is due to new Code requirements including those addressing ADA requirements to allow access to

multiple seating areas in the lecture hall. He noted his team has thought of making the lobby smaller, taking out a glass wall and/or moving the restrooms. He also discussed some ways in which they will cut down space in the back of the house rooms.

Meg Linton noted her concern with noise from the courtyard into the "Friends Room" if there are two events going on at the same time.

Committee Member Witte asked whether two events would happen at the same time.

Meg Linton also spoke about the staff entrance and egress and ingress through the courtyard.

Committee Member Witte asked whether it is a requirement for the staff to enter that way.

Ms. Linton and Tim Hetherton stated it is preferred given the location of the staff kitchen and the tradition although.

Committee Member Witte explained how it would work if the two spaces were separated but the staff wouldn't be able to have their own entrance. He spoke about the need to have a sense of "arrival."

Committee Member Dixon stated her concerns with the courtyard being a private space. If the space were private, patrons would have to walk through the lobby to get to the courtyard.

Committee Member Witte opined it would not be well-received for individuals to have to go through the lobby.

Mr. Coffee moved on to discuss potential courtyard features such as a trellis or shade feature versus trees. He also discussed utilizing bamboo as a plant material for the space and having a water element to mask noise from Avocado. He discussed various types of seating with moveable chairs, built in benches, and fixed versus removable seating.

Committee Member Witte provided an example of an outdoor space in Carmel Valley that he likes.

Committee Member Dixon noted it would be wonderful to have an opportunity to plant trees.

The Committee agreed the trees are a good idea as well as the transparent lobby but other aspects are not a high priority.

Mr. Coffee then moved on to discuss the drop off plaza and entrance to the courtyard. He discussed preserving the palm trees and the parking and the arcade.

Committee Member Witte reminded the Committee that the donor wall in the arcade is important to maintain.

Committee Member Dixon noted benches could be used for patrons.

Vice Chair Ray asked whether the paving would be different.

Mr. Coffee explained where the cars would drop off and the curb lines. He showed a diagram of the idea.

The Committee discussed the drop off and parking.

Chair Johnson-Tucker asked whether anyone wanted to comment on anything else.

Tim Hetherton stated he liked the idea of integrating the lecture hall with the courtyard. He noted his concerns with the access of the public during the construction.

Mr. Coffee explained 172 spaces are needed and showed how they would come up with the spaces.

The Committee discussed helping the public during construction and what would be used for parking areas.

Committee Member Witte asked what the next iteration of the presentation would bring.

Mr. Coffee noted that the meeting on the March 3, 2020 will include diagrams of the building and is very important.

Committee Member Dixon left at this juncture a few minutes early.

Peter Tauscher stated upcoming scheduled meetings will be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Crystal Cove Conference Room (2D).

Chair Johnson-Tucker opened the floor for public comments.

Bill Rabben stated that he is pleased that trees will be planted because it is important for this civic project.

Jim Mosher agreed his impression is that the courtyard is an austere space that could use some warmth and trees. He emphasized the facility is a public library and the lecture hall is an appendage and is expected to be used only a few hours per month and the outside open space should be a public space as an extension of the library.

2. Continued discussion of project schedule, programming and concepts

None.

VII. MATTERS WHICH COMMITTEE MEMBERS WOULD LIKE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION OR REPORT (NON-DISCUSSION ITEM)

Committee Member Witte asked Mr. Coffee what his expectations are as to when the Committee has set the conceptual design and he will begin the schematic design. Mr. Coffee and Committee Member Witte would discuss that separately because it was already previously discussed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Johnson-Tucker adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker