

MINUTES

SPECIAL TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Central Library
400 Civic Center, Aaronson Auditorium
Tulsa, OK 74103

Present:

Sally Frasier
Rebecca Marks
Charles O. Meyers, Jr.
Judy Randle
Cindy Vogel
Richard D. White, Jr.
La Verne Ford Wimberly, Ed.D.

Absent:

R. Kyle Alderson
Mayor Bartlett
Commissioner Perry

Also Attending:

Gary Shaffer, *CEO*
Laurie Sundborg, *COO*
Gail Morris
Suanne Wymer
Charlotte Frazier
Shauna McConnell
Ginnie Graham, *Tulsa World*

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Wimberly, noting that a quorum was present.
- 2) Chairman Wimberly introduced Kirby Crowe and Bill Savage from PMg. Mr. Crowe thanked the Commission for their time and complimented them on being so prompt and prepared. He reviewed the procedure and logistics for the meeting, encouraging commissioners to take notes and to look for creativity and communication. Three national architectural firms would give presentations on how they would go about renovating the 50 year old Central Library. The firm chosen would work with a local architecture firm to complete the design and construction. Chairman Wimberly adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m. for 10 minutes for the first presentation set-up.
- 3) Dr. Wimberly called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

The firm **Gould Evans** from Kansas City, Kansas made their presentation. Representing the firm were Tommy Rohr, Design Principal Steve Clark, and Jane Huesmann, managing principal/project manager. The 30 year old firm reviewed recent projects and relayed how they work with local firms, community involvement, and budgets. Ideas for a Teen Center were presented. They asked actual teens for their ideas. The firm suggested creating a new environment for teens, making it a destination not just a floor or area in the building, facilitating social interaction.

When asked prepared questions, they responded with the following:

- a) PMg asked about what challenges they would face—
 - How to draw teens to the Central Library – how to get them here
 - Budget – large amount of infrastructure may eat up the funds.
- b) PMg asked about controlling quality from long distance –
 - They stay involved all the way through – Local firm would need to as well
 - Facetime with the local firm

- c) Chairman Wimberly asked why they wanted to come to Tulsa. What is your vision?
 - It's the kind of work we like to do. When you like something you do a great job.
 - 80% of their work has been renovation. The Central Library has good bones.
 - Librarians are great clients – want the best and the most out of every dollar.
 - Their vision is for the Central Library to be a catalyst for the downtown area
 - It would be a renovation to a destination
- d) Richard White asked who would we be working with primarily – They work together on projects
- e) Mr. Shaffer asked about their involvement with Library staff.
 - They would want staff input – feedback from day to day needs. Maybe a group for review and approval, and one for resources.

Wrap-up:

- They have perspective from across the nation
- Exploring the library of the future
- Research- based customized solutions
- They have hard working creative energy

Chairman Wimberly adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

Chairman Wimberly called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

- 4) Henry Tom, lead designer, along with John Berkinbine and Robert Clements of **Line and Space** from Tucson, Arizona gave their presentation.

The 33 year old firm reviewed their past performances and addressed budget issues. Henry Tom would be the single point of contact and is currently licensed in Oklahoma in good standing. They presented a timeline.

Their Teen Center vision was titled "TEEN GREEN." They conducted a workshop with teens at the kids' clubhouse tying it to the "green" theme and asking what the kids wanted. The concept would be to zone the teen area into 3 zones – noisy, semi-quiet and quiet. The kids wanted it to be casual with some freedom to supervise themselves, while incorporating green ideas and user-generated power. An aim would be to make peer pressure productive. Extending the usability of outdoor spaces, water harvesting/passive heating and interactive natural light were ideas presented.

When asked questions, they responded with the following:

PMg asked about what challenges they would face–

- Dealing with an existing facility
- Location – Library in middle of Tulsa

PMg asked about controlling quality from long distance –

- They are the designers and oversee the construction documents.

Chairman Wimberly asked why they wanted to come to Tulsa? What is your vision?

- Their process is to gather information; getting it documented. They know it's TCCL's vision, not theirs

Richard White asked about projects they had worked on other than in Arizona.

- They responded with one in San Diego and one in Wyoming

Mr. Shaffer asked about their involvement with Library staff.

- They would want staff input – feedback from day to day needs. Maybe a group for review and approval, and one for resources.

Wrap-up

- Their process is to gather information
- The vision would be ours, not theirs
- The design would focus on energy-sustainable items such as solar panels & natural light
- Seemed to be on the cutting edge in terms of design and being “green.”

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

The meeting reconvened and was called to order by Chairman Wimberly at 11:10 a.m.

The third presentation was from **Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle** (MS&R). Jeffrey A. Scherer, FAIA and Traci Engel Lesneski informed Commissioners that they were 30 years in the business and knew the region well. They start with many questions swirling around budgets, programs, and services.

MS&R did an informal survey of teens from Union and Booker T. Washington High Schools. Architect Traci Engel Lesneski relayed that if teens come downtown, they want something different than they can get anywhere else. Parking and safety were concerns of the teens.

When asked questions, they responded with the following:

PMg asked about what challenges they would face–

- Money
- Agreement
- Process

PMg asked about controlling quality from long distance –

- Clear consensus of what everyone needs to do
- Clear design goals
- Accountability – good management

Rebecca Marks asked about cost and how they would rate themselves.

- “Money is not a scary thing as long as expectations are aligned”

Richard White asked if they would be too busy for us to feel like they can do the job.

- Not a problem

Mr. Shaffer asked about how they would involve Library staff.

- Have a visioning meeting for staff
- Learn what is working well now
- Set aside time at every meeting to meet specifically with staff

Wrap-up

- This project offers challenges that appeal to MS&R beyond design and technical aspects. Mr. Scherer said it’s about issues facing central cities in the U.S. and facing socioeconomic questions. They like “messy projects” which this one is, because – the payoff is greater at the end. Libraries are a life-long adventure for Mr. Scherer. He likes the hurdles.
- Traci has a compulsion to “fix it.” She likes the opportunity to make a building work.
- A wealth of experience - have worked in 28 states + D.C., and 60% of projects have been library renovation projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles O. Meyers, Jr.
Secretary

The final agenda was posted at the Central Library and on the Tulsa City-County Library Web page on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 and a meeting notice with the City and County Clerks, at the Central Library, and on the Library web page announcing the meeting on September 12, 2011.