

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND
Library Board Minutes

Tuesday, August 17, 2021 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Peter Sobol called the Library Board to order at 6:06 p.m. the E.D. Locke Public Library, meeting room 103.

Members present: Karin Mandli, Evan Richards, Peter Sobol, Ken Machtan, Michael Flaherty, Staci Fritz

Members not present: Mona Nelson

Staff Present: Heidi Cox, Kelly Heasty

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES AND COMMUNICATION

3. ACTION ITEMS

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

a. Discussion of the draft E. D. Locke Facilities Study

The Library Board embarked on a facilities study in order to ensure that the library is meeting the community's needs into the future. The reasons for investigating adding additional space to the library are:

- Patrons have expressed the desire for a larger Children's area which would incorporate more small program space, drop-in craft space, and a play area that incorporates literacy.
- Family programs often exceed the capacity of the current library meeting room and some families have to be turned away.
- The Children's area and the Teen area are both very popular and noise from both areas travels throughout the library often generating complaints.
- McFarland residents are avid users of the library and library materials are heavily utilized. Sometimes materials have to be removed from the collection because there isn't enough shelf space. Due to space constraints, the library cannot add any more shelving without removing seating areas, which are also very popular. The shelving the library currently has is very high and limits light and visibility in the main part of the library. The height of the shelving also makes it difficult for some patrons to access materials if they have mobility or vision issues.
- Study room and small meeting room space is limited and demand exceeds the current space.

To meet the needs that were originally expressed, the board working with Epstein

Uhen Architects, discussed two options for expansion projects. The first option was a first floor expansion towards Milwaukee St. The advantages of a first floor expansion would be:

- Having a patio on Long St. for library programs or patrons to gather, read, or work outside.
- A one-story addition would provide a larger roof which would accommodate more solar panels.
- The building wouldn't have to be closed to the public during construction very long.

The disadvantages of a first floor expansion are:

- The parking lot would be taken up by the expansion. Patrons and staff would have to find parking in another village lot or on the street.
- The total square footage once the work is complete would be less than adding a second floor.

The advantages of expanding onto a second floor are

- Larger Children's area to allow for additional services.
- The existing parking lot would remain.
- A patio on the 2nd floor would be larger and accommodate more patrons. In the future, it could also be turned into library space if the need arises.

The disadvantages of expanding onto a second floor are:

- The library may have to relocate operations during construction or close for longer periods of time.
- A second story may require more workers to adequately staff a second floor service desk.
- A stairwell and elevator would need to be added to meet with standards set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Member Ken Machtan, second by Member Evan Richards, to adjourn at 7:23 pm.

Pursuant to law, written notice of this meeting was given to the public and posted on the public bulletin boards in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Cox
Library Director