

When: 6:30p, Thursday, September 4, 2025 / Where: Town Hall Annex

Attendees: Gretchen Wetherby, Lydia Ievins, Pam Allan, Miryam Vesset, Tamara Kaplan, Tricia Perham, Will Quale / Library Director: Caitlin Kelley / Public: Adam Thibeault (Downes), Ariel Elan (LBSC) / Absent: Jim Martineau, Susan Dorais

6:34 Call to order

6:35 Discussion: design concept review

- Basement — Discuss after we get cost data. Soil assessment results due in a 3–5 weeks (from testing last week). If any hazardous material or abatement, have to take it all out; will affect basement cost. AT: This lib is a 50–100 yr investment. If you need to spend \$ to get a basement for programming space, then do it.
- Fire stairs — Downes has some concerns about fire stairs, stairwells, what's really code. Steve will talk w Angela. Bumping out fire stair from the rectangle would add visual interest.
- Main entry — When we walk into Carnegie, is big and open. Right now, in sketch, walk into vestibule (lobby, stairwell, toilets) or stacks. Community will want it to feel open and welcoming. Long discussion about putting entrance at in middle of either 2nd St or Ave A. Some concerned about Ave A feeling less safe as a busy street, 2nd St more welcoming. Others pointing out that most other Ave A places (besides the Crocker) have entrances on Ave A, and that putting entrance on Ave A gives some delineation to stacks. Consensus that we'd like to see both of these options sketched, ideally before community mtg.
- Storage — OK with giving up basement space if we can get the storage somewhere else. Artifact display near entry? Rocks going back to Linda. Wooden display cases are an interesting piece of community history, result of fundraising effort for new Carnegie.
- Bathrooms — Community room with 100 people will need more than 2 toilets on 2nd floor. Not raising the bathrooms topic at next week's community meeting.
- Property line — If we bump out stairwell, slide bldg back toward 2nd St. CK: Possible that when our parcel transfers from EDIC back to the town, the EDIC's agreement with DCR about using the neighboring park parcel may be affected/voided, may give us some wiggle room to move a smidge farther into the park.
- Space juggling — MV: if basement, then consider break room closer to staff room, open up space for Friends. Could put all those extra bathrooms where the 2nd floor break room is now. TP: if allowing for rentals of community space, kitchen needs to be a bit bigger.
- Entry columns — TP: one way to make entry more interesting (would work better on Ave A) = columns like in Carnegie, walk into space and then 2 columns coming up, maybe diff flooring. Defining entry space, paying homage to Carnegie, breaking space up. Others either loved or hated this idea.
- Roof garden — voted unanimously to approve adding the roof garden to our building plan.
- Roofline — AT: need something else besides just straight. TP: argues for an entrance on ave A. AT: could be parapet at 4' goes up to 5' then back down to 4'.
- Offices — LI: space for adult svcs position? TP: if break room on 1st floor, between there and tech svcs?

7:28 Upcoming meetings — Full Board: Mon, 9/22/25, 6p, now Zoom

7:31 Adjourn

Documents reviewed: Plan sketch of options A-B-C

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Ievins ∴ Secretary ∴ Montague Public Libraries Trustees