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Lindenhurst Memorial Library

Community Planning Committee Meeting #1

01/24/2017 @ 6:30 PM

A. Welcome

- Danny Tanzi from H2M introduced the firm and his team members for this project.
- Purpose of the meeting is to gain feedback from the community, to decide what works and what doesn't in the existing Library.
- No decisions have been made yet.
- We have met with the Library staff and Lee Avenue neighbors for initial feedback, since they would be most impacted by this project.
- Some of the Lee Avenue residents' comments include: Parking lot entrance/exit from/to Lee Avenue pose a hazardous condition – most people exiting the parking lot do not look left.
- Goals of today's meeting: no plans, no rendering. Define goals based on community feedback. Prepare some designs and revised as needed.
- Multi-month process: refer to online info for community meeting minutes. Participants were encouraged to attend all meetings in order avoid going backwards.
- Conversation – feel free to jump in anytime.

B. Existing Space Analysis

1. Entrance / Lobby Area:

- Spill out to exterior covered arcade
- Challenges: Cold; Flooring is loud and poses a tripping hazard
- Opportunities: Need more prominent entrance; more welcoming; comfortable seating; display area
- Comments: Mural may be moved and lit as outside billboard or boundary to create definition.

2. Children's Services

- Lots of programs
- Challenges: Too small; no dedicated areas for different demographics (i.e. toddlers vs. tweens); existing furniture poses hazard for kids
- Opportunities: Outlets for story time room; breastfeeding room; dedicated children's toilet
- Demographics: More dedicated; Tween / Toddlers

3. Adult Services

- Challenges:
 - Need more group tutoring rooms
 - Need quiet study - quiet study was in the current Teen Area
 - Need more intimate study rooms
 - Need a variety of comfortable seating
 - Need to improve acoustics from Teen Area.

- Need more outlets.
 - Opportunities:
 - Café?
 - Different seating; preserve historical component of “Memorial” library
4. 1st floor Meeting Room
- Challenges:
 - No break-out space
 - Too small
 - Inconvenient location – difficult to find
 - Robust activities – spaces are busting at the seams
 - Insufficient outlets
 - Gaming in room – too crowded
 - Opportunities:
 - Maybe a good place for café?
 - Collaborative computer screens for gaming / group studies?
5. Teen Area
- Challenges:
 - Packed
 - Teens take over the aisles
 - Need noise barrier
 - Need Quiet Study room & Noisy Room
 - Need more computers, printers, outlets
 - Opportunities:
 - “Inclusive space”
 - Maker space – STEM / STEAM programs; robotics, electronics, 3D printer
 - Need program space to accommodate teens letting out from middle school
 - Movable furniture desired
 - Can we expand teen area by building out 2nd floor?
 - Roof was done in 2012
 - Structural issues with existing load-bearing mezzanine shelving
 - May require additional staffing for supervision
 - Need to be remote but still visible
 - Enclose mezzanine in glass?
 - Build up courtyard – locate teen area above existing courtyard?
6. Downstairs Meeting Room
- Challenges:
 - Not enough space to accommodate variety of group sizes
 - Many programs are turned away due to insufficient space
 - Insufficient outlets
 - No sink for children’s programs
 - Carpet flooring not washable for children’s programs

- Waste of space in existing courtyard
 - Opportunities:
 - Provide space for community activity to draw in people for public engagement
 - Flexible and versatile space to accommodate more and different programs
 - Expand into existing courtyard to create additional meeting room / large break-out space?
 - Provide washable flooring with sink
 - Lindenhurst has a large senior population - locate Meeting Room on 1st floor for accessibility
7. Annex Building
- Challenges:
 - 1st Floor used as administrative office – appeared to have residential layout
 - Full unfinished basement with low ceiling height – currently used as storage
 - Outdated
 - Opportunities:
 - Perhaps expansion – linking 2 buildings to bring staff closer to Library common
8. Outdoor area (adjacent to Annex Building)
- Used often as program space
 - Perhaps parking area could be converted to basketball court if the 2 buildings are connected
9. Miscellaneous
- HVAC system – too hot, too cold
 - Insufficient Signage / Wayfinding
 - Noise issues
 - Lack of collaboration space
 - Elevator NOT at the best location – difficult to find
 - May need an area where children and seniors meet.
 - Media / Technology area for quick printing / scanning / faxing
10. Exterior
- Need additional benches for outdoor seating
- C. Scenarios and Consequences:
1. Do nothing.
 2. Renovate existing library within existing footprint.
 3. Demolish existing library and provide new building.
 4. Addition onto existing library.
 5. Addition onto existing library with connective “link” to Annex building – renovate both buildings.
- D. Sense of Place Exercise:
1. What makes Lindenhurst great?
 - Everyone stays and return to Lindenhurst
 - Family community – 3rd generation

- Community spirit – parades, marches

2. Why is Library important to Lindenhurst?

- Vision of Library has changed so much – used to be research only, study, quiet. Now collaboration, hangout
- Library was major hub during Hurricane Sandy – provides electricity, warmth
- Residents are brought closer to one another through program participation
- Library connects the community and its neighbors
- Legacy – Community Center
- Day of Pap Rally – 216 people come into the Library at 2:45 p.m.
- Library needs to be a welcoming space for teens and tweens, so they can socialize while being kept safe and off the streets.

F. Q&A

- Is overcrowding due to non-resident usage?
 - Library cannot democratically deny access to anyone. Most of the patrons are residents.

G. Next Steps

- Please spread the word to other residents to participate in these meetings.
- Let's dream as big as we can – create a wish list
- Based on input and comments collected, we will start to assemble design concepts for participants' review and comment.
- At some point, the participants will reach some consensus on the design concept, when the library will consider the scope of work required for the Library.
- Then we will identify magnitude of construction and costs, and prioritize as needed.

