

Minutes

CALLED MEETING: FRIENDS OF THE ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY and ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY

BOARD MEETING

January 17, 2015

FOL Members Present:

Rhonda Bolt	Rob Carleton	Mary Catherine Campbell	Carrie Casada
Tiffany Lamb	Cathy Lauve	Jill May	Tom McAlister
Mary Pizzorno	Libby Rankin	Eddy Smith	
Staff:	Lori Grumet, City Librarian		
	Janis Test, APL Information Services Manager		

Call to Order: Presidents Rob Carleton and Carrie Casada called the joint meeting of the Abilene Public Library Advisory Board and the Friends of the Library Board to order at 12:12 pm. The workshop/brainstorming session was turned over to Lori Grumet.

Lori gave the purpose of the meeting and reviewed previous ideas pertaining to the location and condition of both the main and south side libraries.

- Develop library on south side
- Joint school/library branch
- Facility with a recreation center
- Questionnaire for the south side branch
- Lease new location for south branch
- Explore park land opportunities (Redbud Park)
- Find a vacant building

MAIN LIBRARY – CURRENT LOCATION

Discussion began with the main library and problems with the current building.

- Roof – top priority – It is the general feeling of the FOL board that the roof is the responsibility of the City of Abilene and not the FOL board.
- Façade
- Electrical
- Carpeting
- Furniture
- Fixtures

- Abatement - Lori stated that if the bond passes in May, the \$600,000 designated for the library would cover the cost of complete abatement and new ceilings.
- Technology and IT upgrades
- Kitchen – Eddy Smith suggested considering renovating current auditorium, removing the stage, upgrading technology, putting in kitchen, etc.
- Relocation of some services to another site – Technology services, Genealogy, Friends sorting. Dennis mentioned that Rose Park Senior Center might be a good location for those services.
- Off-site storage with courier for some of the collection.

MAIN LIBRARY – NEW LOCATION – Suggested name...ABILENE HERITAGE SQUARE (Lincoln Middle School)

- City owned
- Private funding
- New construction – 60,000 sq. ft. of new construction for the library with water feature at entry which is on the west side of current building. Renovated current structure would house offices, business incubator, black box theatre, café, etc. Football field converted into parking.

Alternate new main location:

- Find location
- Acquire property
- Design
- Fund – how?
- Construction
- Furniture and equipment
- Staff and operate

Roadblocks consist of timetables (some too long and some too short), funding (bond election, fundraising, etc., immediate needs and other.

The consensus of the group is the support of the development of Abilene Heritage Square.

SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY – FUTURE OPTIONS

Lease current location – Current lease expires July 31, 2015. We are currently paying \$5,600 per month for 5,600 sq. ft. Discussion was if we stay in current location, the landlord will more than likely ask for a 5 year lease. Funds are needed for new signage and upgrades on interior space. All current problems would remain the same as far as size, parking, etc.

Lease new location – If a new location is found, the process would include RFP for space, contract the space, funds needed for renovation of space, moving and advertising costs, new furniture and equipment and open. This process would likely be repeated every 5 to 10 years.

Tom McAlister suggested we consider property on Barrow, 20,000 sq. ft. available for 40 cents per foot.

A Red Bud Park location was also discussed. Although there are restrictions on that property, Libby Rankin felt this might be a project that could develop there.

Build new south branch – Requirements would include at least 5 years to develop the project. We would acquire land, schematic design, capital campaign for a minimum of \$7.5M, design development, construction

documents, construction, furnish and open. This would allow for a permanent infrastructure investment for 30 years or more.

At this point Lori asked the group for a concensus of continuing our current lease with minimal upgrades, leasing a new location or purchasing an existing building, renovating and owning the property. The group is not in favor of staying at the current location.

New Committees

Development of a new Strategic Plan will begin Thursday, January 22 and Lori asked interested board members to volunteer for a 5 person Strategic Planning Team to visit with the planner and help coordinate focus groups. The Strategic Plan should be completed by May 1.

Five members are also needed for a Facility and Funding committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rhonda Bolt