



Memo

Project Name: Stapleton Branch Library

Wember Inc. Project Number: 2008.22

Architect Project Number:

Contractor Project Number:

Issue Date:

Meeting Date: February 19, 2010

Location:

Purpose: Community Meeting #2 Follow-up Notes
for Distribution to Front Porch, etc.

Dear Stapleton Branch Library Supporters,

The spirit of collaboration continued in our second of four Stapleton Branch Library community meetings held on Wednesday, February 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the Bill Roberts School Cafeteria.

Shirley Amore, City Librarian, welcomed the community back and expressed enthusiasm for the process and the opportunities that this Library holds. For those unable to attend the first community meeting, a quick recap of the project's details and the community brainstorming findings was given. Fun insight into the kids' point of view and expectations was gained from our 5th and 7th grade neighborhood school outreach efforts.

A frank discussion about "What Works for DPL" as the owner and operator of the facility ensued. Cori Jackamore, Library Manager, presented the following core functional elements which their experience has shown to be ideal for efficiency and customer satisfaction:

1. **Computers:** Grouping computers for a variety of uses and users so they are visible and accessible is ideal for staff assistance. A lab style arrangement will not be used in this Library.
2. **Staff Area:** Needs to be close to the entry and have separate outdoor access.
3. **Large Community Room Use:** This area will be reserved on a first come, first served basis, and users will be charged a fee. No commercial kitchen facilities will be available.
4. **Study Room Use:** These will be available on a first come, first served, no fee basis.
5. **Food and Beverages:** Vending machines will be available with hot /cold beverages and healthy snacks. Food and covered beverages will be allowed within the Library.

An overview of the site and its opportunities for development followed. In order to maximize the building's area, enhance its street presence and screen the parking lot, an L-shaped building is being proposed. This configuration will allow for maximum use of the existing parking lot, and will minimize the needed modifications to the lot, thus reducing site development costs and leveraging construction dollars so they can be spent on the building and plaza. The overall site area is

intended to be larger than the Library itself to allow for building articulation with potential window seat projections or “porch” indents.

The internal features of the Library were then discussed. The potential layout of a large portion of building has been and will continue to be informed by suggestions provided by the community, as well as by DPL’s experience in creating the ideal interior environment. Library Managers Cori Jackamore and Gwen Crenshaw introduced the base Library plan areas in detail, and explained the features and flow of each of these spaces as follows:

1. **Transaction** (Welcoming & Highly Visible): help desk; customer support; circulation help; check-in/check-out via both assisted and self check stations; pick up for library holds and information hub.
2. **Popular Materials** (Interactive Space with Retail Feel): highly visible; browsing and seating; new releases for books, music and movies; magazines, newspapers, music collection and movie collection; collaborative space for groups of ten; service point.
3. **Teen/Tween** (Interactive Space): flexible; social gathering; group homework; young adult fiction and magazines; LCD screen.
4. **Children’s** (Interactive Space): close to adult fiction to allow for shared use and supervision; board books, picture books and easy readers; fiction and non-fiction; craft/activity area; discovery pods for active learning; family restroom; service point.
5. **Adult** (Quieter Space): fiction and non-fiction; comfy furniture for reading; table seating; service point; study/small meeting rooms for groups of 2-4 people with some privacy.
6. **Support** (Staff Only): staff entry/delivery; staff workroom; automated book return and sorter; office space; donations processing; staff restroom and break room; storage; IT, mechanical, electrical, fire/water entry room and maintenance workroom.
7. **Technology Zone** (Centralized): computers for different types of users will be provided; printer/copier; Wi-Fi throughout, including the outdoor public plaza.

The entry plaza and community elements that extend out to Roslyn Street were presented with two design options forming the basis for community break-out/discussion groups. This area will likely be comprised of the following spaces:

1. **Plaza** (Community “Porch”): book drop – 24 hr access; drop-off zone; shaded outdoor seating; meeting space; bike parking, views of interior Library activity.
2. **Entry** (Inviting/Active): stroller parking; vending; outdoor/indoor space to be highly visible; seating and gathering; book return; LCD screen to announce Library activities; public restrooms; janitorial closet.
3. **Community Space** (Accessible/Multipurpose): large room for 50-100 people; dividable into 2 rooms; countertop with sink for food/drink service; near restrooms; technologically advanced with projector/screen/audio equipment and Wi-Fi for maximum flexibility.

Two concept plan options were presented along with solar studies showing the impact of the shadow generated by the Crescent Flats at varying times of the year.

- **Scheme “A”** depicted a separate building form that housed the community space, and was linked to the main Library by a large entry with access off Roslyn through a small east facing plaza, and access from the parking lot through a larger west facing plaza.
- **Scheme “B”** depicted the community space connected to the main Library form and had a single large community plaza to the south.

The community identified the pros and cons of each of the schemes as follows:

Scheme "A"		Scheme "B"	
PROs	CONs	PROs	CONs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation of meeting room activity and noise • Entry is an open transition zone – more socially inviting and less disruptive to the main Library space. • Plaza and entry are out of the 4 story Crescent Flats shadow. • Three differentiated outdoor plazas allow for flexibility of use by different groups • More interesting architectural aesthetic • Separate mechanical system to respond to meeting room needs • Nice indoor meeting space (needed in community, as there are lots of outdoor spaces but few indoor spaces) • Good configuration for after-hour use • Interior activity is visible from entry plazas, more inviting and gives more natural light and better indoor-outdoor connection. • Entry plazas are separate from Crescent Flats, making it dedicated to Library use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less flexibility for meeting room programming as it is disconnected from the Library space • Separation of Library spaces • Hard to supervise meeting room space • Higher operating cost • Possible outdoor wind tunnel between meeting room and Crescent Flats building • Outdoor areas are walk-through spaces – not inviting • Plazas are not usable year around • South plaza not inviting, therefore will be under-utilized • Smaller outdoor spaces – less flexibility for community use • Bike and stroller parking is too distributed • Restrooms too far removed from main Library space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large open public plaza • More flexible programming between Library and meeting room • Library stands separate from Town Center • Single venue for meeting, bikes and strollers – less confusing • More economical • Easier to manage • Larger outdoor space presents greater educational use opportunities (growing or demonstration gardens, teaching, composting, etc.) • Better solar exposure for lobby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaded plaza in winter • Simpler single building • Plaza is not usable year around • Single plaza may get overrun and be less user friendly • Dog park for Crescent Flats • Entry and circulation too narrow • Noise transfer from entry or community room to main Library • Boring building form • Poor relationship between the core Library elements and the plaza • Lobby faces car parking and back of Crescent Flats – ugly views

The project team will use these pros and cons, as well as all of the comments from the community received to-date, to inform the design of the Library moving forward.

With that in mind, please join us for Community Meeting #3 on **Wednesday, March 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Bill Roberts School**. A new design that merges the community ideas and input with the expertise of the DPL staff and project team will be presented. Specifically, a revised building layout, feature elements and overall building imagery will be presented in a discussion focused on informing the overall building appearance and how it will fit into the surrounding neighborhood.

Because the design will continue to be developed based on the guidance and vision given to DPL and the project team by the community, we encourage on-going community participation, review and comment. Please forward any insight or comments you may have to: **"webmaster@denverlibrary.org"**. DPL and the project team will receive all e-mails and review them internally. Please understand that the team does not have the capacity to respond to them or enter into discourse. All ideas are welcomed and will be addressed as appropriate as the design evolves.

We look forward to your continued participation in this exciting process!