

Library Committee

Minutes

February 27, 2008

Present: Grant, Hobart, James, Manning, Mossel, Randle, Rose, Rothstein, Ryan, Rorabaugh, Sobers, Gifford, and Fields

Absent: None

Chair Luanne Rothstein called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m. at City Hall. Susan Grant moved supported by Dale Hobart to approve the minutes of February 19, 2008. Motion carried.

Chair Luanne Rothstein thanked everyone again for last weeks meeting. Dale Hobart asked if the “Wish List and the Challenge List” could be placed on the City’s web site.

The meeting was turned over to Dan Durkee of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, and Huber. Mr. Durkee informed the committee that Roger Schneidt, (City of Big Rapids) was also present during the structural analysis. He reported that current building codes require a library stack room to have a live load of 150 psf (lbs sq foot) while that of a school classroom, or residential, is 40 psf capacity. The bulk of the Big Rapids Community Library has a live load of 40 psf, which is all that was needed when the building was a school.

It was noted that in the NW corner in the lower level there is a support beam that makes the first floor above that direct area 150 psf.

Jeff Mossel asked what was determined on the foundation of the building. It was reported that there was a moisture problem but the foundation was fine. Everyone needs to remember that the building was built in 1916 as a school. It has been a library since 1961 and in 2000 it was determined that some areas of the library are unsafe concerning the psf.

Steve Sobers asked if the building were renovated, in theory, all codes would have to be met. The answer was yes.

The building as is could be used for residential or even school use again.

The big question becomes – do we build new and become more efficient or renovate and stay where the library is currently located.

Carlleen Rose asked if Mr. Durkee could provide us with other libraries that were renovated. Pros, cons, and end results.

Gaylynn told the committee that surveys have been done in the past concerning library use and willingness to pay but it probably needs to be done again with a broader audience.

Steve Sobers asked if we could obtain an estimated cost just to reinforce the floors but Jeff Mossel replied that we really need a plan in order to move in that direction.

Luanne Rothstein asked Mr. Durkee if he could provide a cost for a renovation study. Marlies Manning requested that we develop a RFP that outlines several options that we would like prices on and have competitive bids submitted from architectural firms.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m. and the next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on March 5, 2008 at City Hall (where there is ample parking) and the following meeting will be at 8:00 a.m. on March 18, 2008 at City Hall.