

August 3, 2022

The Sullivan County Public Library Board of Trustees held a regular meeting at 6:00pm.

Library Board: Terri Roberts, President; Katie Couch, Secretary; Jo Linda Lyttle, Treasurer (via Zoom) Susan Brooks; Chris Gentry; Sarah Hannon

Library Staff: Jordan Orwig, Director; Tammy Secrest, Accounting Manager

Others: Zach Benedict, MKM Architecture + Design (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

Susan made a motion to call the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Sarah seconded and motion passed.

FEASIBILITY MASTER PLAN

Jordan opened the meeting telling everyone that this will be a time to review the notes that were taken down on the proposed Feasibility Study from MKM.

Susan asked if the December final proposal is the “final” or if there was still room for discussion and changes to be made. Jordan responded that the study is done but there will be changes and small tweaks mostly due to budget concerns.

The study was displayed on a large screen, and Jordan started the discussion with slide 9 showing the Sullivan County Public Library coverage in the county by branch/location. From the map, Jordan said that there is no coverage in the northwest corner of Sullivan County. He asked if the Library should consider something there. Jordan mentioned that Sullivan County has the most branches per capita in the state of Indiana.

Slide 10 Circulation Counts

The Board decided that this slide is still fairly accurate and needed no further discussion.

Slide 11 Collection Size

Most agreed that the Sullivan branch numbers are up while the other branches may have a decline in their collection sizes.

Slide 12 Carlisle Branch

There is a water issue that needs to be addressed. Susan mentioned that it would be nice to have an enclosed area at this location for tutoring, etc. On the water issue, Zach wondered if the landscaping mulch may be too deep by the foundation for the water to freely drain away. Jordan said that he will get some pictures and assess the situation..

Slide 14 - Dugger Branch

Everyone agreed that a new building is needed here due to currently having no handicap accessibility.

Slide 17 Farmersburg Branch

Jordan pointed out an area on the slide where an enclosed room could be built. Again, this could be for tutoring and private meetings. It would have a door and maybe a half glass wall. This location does not need many major renovations, just some new furniture to spruce things up. The Board agreed that getting new furniture should be done at the same time a new room is built and decorated.

Slide 19 Merom Branch

Jordan showed an adjacent lot west of this branch that has now been acquired by the Library. However, there is still a structure on it that needs to be dealt with. The main concerns here are limited accessibility and the historical nature of the building. Susan mentioned that there might be grant potential due to the building's age and architecture.

Slide 21 Shelburn Branch

The Board agreed that there are few alternatives at this location since it is a rented space within a larger facility. Given this circumstance, as well as its proximity to the main library and Farmersburg branch, this branch could be retired to right-size the library coverage map per capita. Zach offered ideas for its replacement like a walk up book rental kiosk or a bookmobile. He also mentioned partnering with local churches to offer some limited programming like story time.

Chris asked about how the Library would deal with the public discussions that are bound to bring about some community pushback. Zach said he can be involved and that the Board needs to be prepared for questions about specific numbers being spent. He felt that the announcement is better delivered from someone local as opposed to an outsider, though Chris did not agree.

Slide 24 Museum

All agreed that this building itself is well-loved within the community. However, it has mounting maintenance costs and possible significant structural issues. Finding grants targeted at historical buildings could be an option. Katie asked if valuables should potentially be moved from the location due to the uncertainty of its long-term condition.

Slide 26 Main Library

With the renovation here being a large multiple-story addition, Chris asked how accurate the proposal is in today's economy. Zach responded that some items have increased in price by up to 40% and that there are large lead times on some big ticket items. Jordan asked him to update the numbers to 2022 prices. Zach said he can do that, but that the Board should decide what they

really want to spend money on before he spends his time updating the numbers. Terri mentioned I-READI grants and that Sullivan County did not apply for any recently. It was mentioned that the City of Sullivan did but not Sullivan County. Terri also expressed concern over needing a second new building to house the annex. She wondered why it could not be incorporated into the new addition to the library. Jordan explained that the coming and going of shipping carriers posed a logistic problem to a previous addition plan.

The Board then discussed the main library's lack of parking and ease of access. Options were brought up about acquiring neighboring properties to increase parking. Zach confirmed that the strip of land next to Lover's Lane would not be large enough to add any additional parking. He also agreed that the future of the Library and how the offerings may change made a service area as a separate building even more important. Members of the Board wondered about building a new building at a different site, and Zach stated that the cost would be up to \$500 per square foot. Everyone agreed that there was currently no budget for that and that an addition should be the plan going forward.

Moving Forward

The changes discussed tonight will be presented for approval at the August 17th Board meeting. After that, it will be time to schedule some public meetings and maybe put the proposed changes on the website to begin informing the community.

Zach proposed a tiered approach to the building projects - deciding which projects will be in Tier I, Tier II, etc. This would be done to show the community that these changes would take effect over a period of time.

Zach suggested getting a total cohesive plan and project cost together. The Board agreed that there was no room in the budget for Sullivan to build a completely new building. Terri still wondered if the city would gift land around the new community center to the project. But most agreed that that option is likely off the table.

Katie made a motion that there will be no new location and structure for the Sullivan branch, focusing efforts to expand and renovate its current location. Chris seconded and motion passed.

Tier Discussion

Tier I

Retiring the Shelburn branch while still looking into some type of community book exchange and maintaining a free WiFi location. It would also include some minor improvements at the Farmersburg location like a room enclosure and new furniture. This tier would also include land acquisition for the new Dugger branch being proposed in Tier II.

Tier II

Build a new ADA accessible library in Dugger somewhere close to the school.

Tier III

Build a new addition onto the existing Sullivan location and make some smaller upgrades to the Merom branch to make it more ADA compliant. Discussion included these being proposed under some sort of Carnegie umbrella.

Susan made a motion to accept the tiered plan. Chris seconded and motion passed.

Chris would still like to know what it would cost to have Zach come in and help with public input meetings. Jordan believed it was time to move forward with these plans as they have been a while in the making. These plans would have a 3-5 year timeline while hopefully supporting the Library for the next 20 years and beyond. Board members mentioned again the next round of I-READI grants and said the project needs to be shovel ready to be approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Susan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded and motion passed.

Adj. @ 8:15pm

NEXT MEETING: August 17, 2022 cc: Katie Springer, Attorney at Law

Board Members
August 3, 2022

Terri Roberts, President

Susan Brooks, Board Member

Aaron Greve, Vice-President

Chris Gentry, Board Member

Jo Linda Lyttle, Treasurer

Sarah Hannon, Board Member

Katie Couch, Secretary