Marshfield Library and Community Center Project
Public Forum
April 19, 2012
10:30 am

Dick Seifert (Red Hawk Lane) – recommends visiting Centralia Senior Center in Wisconsin Rapids.

- 200 visitors each day, many activities, renovated Library.
- Mentions 20 people using the Senior Center today.
- Wants view of Community Center ideas.

David Drews – Needs more input to develop and then shows possibilities.

- Square footage.
- Senior Center/ADRC/Kitchen/Lower Level meeting or game rooms.

Theresa Konopa – few Senior Center users, is there justification for a fancy/dancy Senior Center with so few using it now.

- Will there be testing/study rooms?

David Drews – shows small rooms

Jean Doty – Comments on fancy/schmantzy Senior Center.

- 20-60 people at any given time.
- Difficult to have multiple large group activities at the same time.
- Acoustics/small/parking

Bill Penker – concerned about overall cost and taxpayer.

- Three – 8 figure and one -7 figure options
- Limitation potential to b…
- Community Center – undefined concept is troubling.
- No definition/assessment/feasibility studies.
- Oak Avenue Community Center – fieldhouse
- Suggest other vacant spaces for Community and Senior Center

Square footage – SCLS consultant

- Industry standard 1.6 per capita
- Appleton Public Library – 1.2 – 1.8 per capita
- Consultant – addition rather than new Library

Steve Coy – everybody is concerned with the financials, group is seeking solution.

- Charette has driven including Senior Center in a Community Center idea.

Noreen Moen (Mill Creek Drive) – Asks about parking needed/required for proposed use

David Drews – notes current code under revision

- Only so much site can support and on street or area parking may alleviate need

Noreen Moen – ask about cost of parking

- $3000/space surface, $15,000/below grade

Steve Barg – notes discussion of structured parking to long term development flexibility – other facility

David Drews – suggests when the time comes develop across street – structured parking

Noreen Moen – possible 2-3 story structure increase height down the road

Kris Keogh – need to build with expansion in mind

Noreen Moen – snow clearing issues

Paula Jero (Ridge Road) – experienced similar process in Janesville
- Keep vision in mind
- Cost vs. vision for the future
- End product for Janesville spurred development
- Balance
- Library most utilized public service
- Frustration

Joyce Fox – vision of the future/school libraries being reduced
- Public Library will have to assume those needs change - large versatile
- Teen area too
- Useful, large and multiple functions
- These are so important

Bill Penker – Paula's issues were addressed in February
- What is the development scheme for downtown? How does a new Library mesh?
- Static vs. dynamic development
- Defined anchor for downtown – south Hotel, center Kwiktrip, north WalMart
- Is downtown a dynamic area?

Paula Jero – Janesville downtown was dying dinosaur/Library was a spark to redevelopment
- Our Library is basic/not a pleasant place to hang out
- Janesville had little spaces to linger in

Dick Solberg – Marshfield living room
- Relax, study, enhance our lives
- Youth and community groups

Noreen Moen – Library is #2 behind coffee shop for reasons to move into an area
- Library is aspect of city very important to me
- It can stimulate further economic development
- Nice to see teens in the Library
- Hates flat roof in elevation

Steve Barg - poll – Plan A – 1; Plans B, C, or E – 10; Do Nothing – 1; More information – 1

Marshfield Library and Community Center Project
Public Forum
April 19, 2012
4:30 pm

Paul Adler – Is a basement included?

- How much parking is provided and what is the cost difference between structures and surface parking?
- Why do we need a teen room and what purpose would it serve?
- Cost assessment for current offerings of the Library and the needs vs. wants?
- Cost difference between natural light (more windows) and light fixtures (fixture cost and electricity).

Dorothy Shields – The drop slot/return slot should be positioned for "driver side" drop offs.

Laua Drendel – Middle School students need a Library to equalize differences between the kids that have a lot and those who do not

- Current Library is not adequate
- Would like to see one of the new Library options
- Community Center – any way to increase use of Library is positive

Jan Courtney – at the Common Council meeting she was under the impression that addition would go to the north.

David Drews – if addition is the option selected, then building to North counld be considered

Marvin Spletter – speak for seniors

- Would like to go with option A
- Leave this building here
- Build a new Library, make it nice, but leave this alone

David Drews – what if in the new space they could have more

Marvin Spletter – people don't like change

- 70-80% don't want

Butch Walsh – if seniors are concerned and want to be heard they should be here

- Need new kitchen
- 2 tables with hot plates not conducive or safe
- Acoustics not good – sound transfer

Dorothy Shields – I went on the bus tour. Blown away by Senior Communities

- What about those that don't come because they don't find this attractive?

Marvin Spletter – what's wrong with it – dark, ugly, unwelcoming

Dorothy Shields – try to be open to what you could have

Marvin Spletter – how do you get the word out about what is going on here?

Butch Walsh – most of what happens here is card playing and bingo

- Suggested polka music/wants a place to dance – not enough room

Janet Courtney – Phoenix Community Center – visited on Senior day

- Not much going on in a 2 story building

Tom Drendel – started playing chess

- Senior Center may have outlived its usefulness
- 8-10 playing
- Restrooms are not easily accessible by passing pool players
- If we open our eyes to new ideas and chess players can see the need for more space.

Shirley Walsh – Safety – doors are not easy to work with walkers and wheelchairs

- Steps are a problem

Paul Adler – parking – is open deck being considered?

- How will people enter the parking structures?

David Drews shows entry points

Paul Adler – are solar panels being considered?

David Drews – not determined yet

- Package boilers in series
- Geothermal could be considered

Dorothy shields – talk about 2 levels

- Will there be an elevator?

David Drews – yes, code and would do it anyway

Mary Pongratz – which of these is the cheapest?

David Drews – addition – least expensive, but getting the least

Mary Pongratz/Dorothy Shields – where will the money come from?

Barb Bartkowiak – every year we heard reasons why we couldn't find the money to make improvements. When will the economy get better enough to consider?

Laura Drendel – economy a consideration

- Weigh safety and watch dollars

Paul Adler – Beebee Family made donation that made the 1960 Library happen.

- Encourage people with connections to ask for support to make this project happen
- Notes other community projects

Gerri Steinwagner – We just had a Spring dinner with 50 people that filled the room.

- 50 people are just a smidgen of the number of people who could be using the space.
- Notes the conflicting survey to get an idea of how the community center could be used.
- Fundraisers until we have a better perspective
- How will the survey…
- Thank everyone
- Would like to see potlucks and cards, full time paid coordinator - need a fearless leader, asks complainers to get involved and help support

Jean Doty – I expect that activities taking place here would continue in the new facility

- Survey to all city residents p hoping to have it ready for Common Council

Poll – Addition – 6; New Library & Community Center – 10; Do Nothing – 0; Need More Info – 2

Marshfield Library and Community Center Project
Public Forum
April 20, 2012
7:30 am

Dan Lewis – us a basement planned for any of the options?

Steve Coy – Does the addition address current problems with the existing Library (power, wiring, etc.)?

Terri Richards – Build for future generations

- There needs to be a presence along Veteran's parkway and parking is <u>not</u> a presence!
- Remodeling doesn't necessarily equate to "cheaper".

Jean Doty – The current Senior Center is maxed out.

- The current layout of 3 rooms does not allow for more programming.

General – If we don't add to or make changes to the Senior Center, the generations to come may not want to use the space. Build it and they will come!

Dan Lewis – Community Center brings in the multi-generations aspect.

Bill Penker – the current Senior Center is "dated."

- Do we need a spate Senior Center or do we mix them with other generations (multi-generational)?
- What are the needs of the seniors?

General – Like the open/flexible spaces of all options

Tom Watson – excited that we have a Library that meets so many needs of the community.

- Glad we are looking to expand the facility and services.

Teri Richards/Bill Penker – if done right, this will be a draw for downtown!

Tom Watson – how do we add value to what we currently have (expanded programming/educational)?

- Are we making the best use of what we currently have before we look at adding on or expanding?
- Get the money first! Start raising money now!
- Get the information out: presentations, brochures, websites, etc.

Bill Penker – The project needs to be a draw and an anchor for downtown

- Should line up with future development plans for the downtown
- The Community Center needs to be further defined.

Jason Angell – The downtown business owners and Main Street need to become more involved in the process and consider making a recommendation.

Poll – Addition – 1; Build new – 2; Do Nothing - 0

Marshfield Library and Community Center Project
Public Forum
April 20, 2012
Noon

Gary Gray – Public Library already operates like a Community Center, so why do we need to separate the two?

- How many meeting rooms are needed and proposed?
- How did we come up with $2.5 million to renovate for the Community Center when the proposed uses have yet to be defined?

Carl Scott – Likes Option A (addition only) because of the façade

- Has the FF&E been itemized?
- What is the cost breakdown for landscaping, parking, and site work?
- Demolition costs?
- Staffing and operation costs for each option?

Poll – Plan A Addition – 3; Build New – 2; Nothing – 0; Need More Info – 2

Marshfield Library and Community Center Project
Public Forum
June 27, 2012
5:00pm

Shirley Walsh – Can the city get grants?

Armin Walsh – I'm with Senior Citizens on the Board

- July – cards, pool, bingo, square dancing, Wii bowling, listening to music
- Hard surface floor for dancing
- Calendar shows that space is being used to its capacity
- Could have so much more

Gail Thomalla – If Senior Center moves into old library – how much space would they gain

Shirley Walsh – Wouldn't city have to do a lot of upgrading to the Senior Center

- Not that accessible
- It's not adequate the way it is
- We won't be there in 25 years but we want the younger ones to have something better

Poll – Plan A -2 ; Plans B, C, or E – 4; Do Nothing – 0

Marshfield Library and Community Center Project
Public Forum
July 10, 2012
5:00pm

Tom Buttke – Future and for the kids

Mike Feirer – Importance of ADRC

Joanne Ampe – Children's need for suitable heights and family

Gayle DeNardis – Toilets and sinks need to be child friendly and seating more padded

- Important to encourage children to read – if you can, you make it for life!
- Teach child, brought o MPL

Nicole DeNardis – Work for improvements to what is an excellent Library

Ampe – Is the Community Living Room term offensive?

Buttke – Some may feel that way

Feirer – Concept- B, C, or E – some won't look at any of them
We have to get them to open their minds

Jesse Jackson – To convince them, that this is the greater good and that they need to represent that

Feirer - Biggest problem is that their vision is too short

- Not receiving negative calls
- We need to be looking much further ahead 10+, 20+
- Different constituencies – I have the oldest

Jackson – Wow! Factor of Rib Mount Fire station, now you turn the corner and Marshfield Fire Station is on the map

- This project could convey that we are safe, smart, and healthy

Gordon Earll – Younger constituency

- Not getting negative calls
- They are looking for the Common Council to make the decision

Buttke – No having negative calls wither, I'm looking for the future

Kris Keogh – What information does the Common Council need to help them make a decision?

Buttke – Depends on what the Committee on Aging survey says

Feirer – Centralia Center – well used, versatile

- 60 is the new 40

Jackson – Having someone (staff) is very important

- Sometimes people see themselves as a club

Buttke – Some people might have their feeling hurt as these changes take place

Barg – Number of people in that age range

Ampe – What would Seniors want most?

Feirer – Congregate meal site

- Parking probably enough nearby

Jason Angell – At one of our other meetings

Feirer – How many Alderman have shown up for these Public Forums

Angell – 7 if you count the 3 times that Gordy has attended – otherwise 4

Jean Doty – Plan A would be very hard to sell to a fundraiser

Ideas for Senior Center displacement – Kelly and Don Zais

Buttke – Don't believe the numbers or the need

Summary of Public Forums

59 attendees for the 6 programs

Poll results (50 respondents):
Addition only – 26%
Build new Library with Community Center – 56%
Do Nothing – 2%
Need More Information – 10%

Common concerns:
Parking space
Basement
Lack of defined use for Community Center
Cost overall as well as specific costs for demolition, renovation, etc.
Is there really a need?
Why a new community center – isn't the Library already one?
From where is the money coming?
Will the new building be used enough to justify the cost?

Positives:
Rejuvenate downtown
Draw for people moving here
Benefit for the community as a whole
Improvement/expansion of activities for Seniors
Community Center idea came from the Community Charettes
Library is highly utilized public service
Useful for multiple functions
A place to relax and enhance our lives
Presence on Veterans Parkway
Multi-generational aspect

Concerns about Senior Center:
Too small
Outdated
Poor acoustics
No kitchen space
Safety issues
Accessibility issues for disabled people