



## SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

### COMMUNITY MEETING NOTES: NORTH BEACH BRANCH LIBRARY

**Location:** North Beach Branch Library

**When:** Wednesday, July 30, 2003  
7:00 pm

<b>Attendees:</b>	General public	50
	Library/City staff	8
	Architects	3
	Elected official representative	1
	Friends of the SFPL	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>

**Agenda:** Welcome & Introductions – Mindy Linetzky, Bond Program Administrator & Robert Carlson, Branch Manager  
Background – Susan Hildreth, City Librarian  
Community Needs & Library Services – Donna Corbeil, Chief of Branches & Susan Hildreth, City Librarian  
Introduction of Architects – Marilyn Thompson, Bond Program Manager  
Design Challenges & Opportunities – Marsha Maytum, Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects  
Update on Rec & Park Planning and Construction – Lizzie Hirsch, Recreation and Park Department  
Q & A/Discussion/Next Steps – Susan Hildreth, City Librarian  
Adjourn

**Summary:** Susan Hildreth discussed how the meeting would focus on the renovation & expansion of the current branch library. The Library has looked at other potential sites including the Pagoda Theater, the Gap Building, and the triangle property, but the best option at this time is to renovate the existing building. She then presented and showed examples of general library service trends including technology, staff roles, self-service, meeting user demands, and the library as "community living room." Donna Corbeil explained the Community Needs Assessment process and results.

Marilyn Thompson presented the project goals: Seismic upgrade, ADA access (including a new elevator & restrooms), a small expansion to accommodate space lost to these new elements, and systems upgrades such as the electrical system. She explained the RFQ process which helped select the firm of Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects and introduced architects Marsha Maytum, Roberto Sheinberg, and Beth Morris. Marsha Maytum explained the firm's background and outlined several opportunities and challenges in renovating the North Beach Branch Library.

Lizzie Hirsch explained the Recreation and Park Department's plans for the surrounding park.

Susan Hildreth concluded that the Library appreciates the precious dollars it has for this project and will continue to interact with other agencies and community members to discuss alternative options for siting the branch.



## Discussion

### Notes:

#### Comments and discussion:

- Concern about homeless people using the library.
- The bocce ball court is unused – add wings to the library in that area. [Rec & Park response: The court is currently locked and will be used as a staging area for construction. Then it will be reopened for use.]
- The Pagoda Theater is empty – why couldn't the library get it? [Library response: The owners wanted more for it than we had to spend.]
- Are you going to put Green Building elements into the building? Use this process as an educational tool for the community. [Library response: We will incorporate green building techniques as required by the City's ordinance. And we have hired one of the premier green building architects on the forefront of this technology.]
- Have history and information available at all hours. Concern about meeting space and comfortable seating. Speed of material handling is a priority. Think about tables to encourage kids to work together.
- The entry is bad.
- Look at need for an elevator because it will eat up the budget.
- Are you going to lose space for books? The library's function is to read. [Library response: Current shelving doesn't display what we have in our collection. We need proper shelving. Our purpose is both to provide books and to provide information. This branch is #1 for adult programs and #2 in the whole system for teen use.]
- Announcement of a petition regarding 701 Lombard. There is an effort for the City to acquire the "triangle" land. How would that impact the library's direction? [Library response: The library & recreation departments would need to step back and do some master planning. We are actively coordinating now and would continue to do so.]
- Comment that there is a North Beach Beat article on Bocce ball. There are no concessions in the park and cell phone intrusions. North Beach is a very literate population – 75% are adults. Need strict sound management between adults and children/teens. Need more computers.
- Don't give up the library plot even if you acquire more space.
- The current building will never be large enough for programs. Get 701 Lombard as park space; look into Hancock School (Filbert @ Taylor & Jones) which will be empty in three years as a place for the library. It's too large for just the library, but you can find other agencies for partners. Its location is still North Beach, but quieter.
- What is the timeline for the renovation? [Library response: For the renovation & expansion project, we plan to close summer 2005 for approximately 18 months. There will be interim service opportunities provided while we are closed.]
- Comment that the area is not really a park. A park should be greener, less concrete.
- Comment that it is possible to change things. It was a mistake to take open space land and put a library on it. We need open space and more library space.
- How does the budget for the library break down? [Library response: \$2.5 million for hard costs, which includes the construction bid & a contingency for change orders, and about \$800,000 for soft costs, which includes architects, engineers, permits, studies, etc.]
- Why not put in ramps instead of an elevator? [Library response: There are design restrictions. It takes valuable square footage to do ramps and creates multiple entry points.]
- Put the elevator outside.
- Macy's has handicap lifts. [Library response: We'll explore the possibility.]
- Check out the new Ocean View Branch Library elevator.
- When was the Ocean View Branch built and for how much? [Response: Ocean View is a new library instead of a renovation. It opened in spring of 2000, is less than 5,000 square feet and cost approximately \$2.5 million.]



- Regarding the triangle property, read the North Beach Beat. There was a deed restriction where the land needed to be offered to the community before it could be sold.
- This is the first meeting – people really care about their library and the area.
- Concern about exploring all options. [Library response: We will not spend money until we have a clear direction.]
- Look at the Pagoda Theater.
- Will renovation contain a Teen Section? [Library response: Yes.]
- Add a table and computer and space for teens.
- Have more room in the Children's Area.

Handouts: Needs Assessment & Survey Results Highlights

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Agenda: Welcome & Introductions – Mandy Linsley, Board Program Administrator & Robert Carney, Branch Manager  
Background – Susan Hildreth, City Librarian  
Community Needs & Library Services – Deane Corbell, Chief of Branches & Susan Hildreth, City Librarian  
Introduction of Architects – Marilyn Thompson, Board Program Manager  
Design Challenges & Opportunities – Marsha Maynard, Liddy Maynard, May Architects  
Update on Rec & Park Planning and Construction – Lizzy Hirsch, Recreation and Park Department  
Q & A/Discussion Next Steps – Susan Hildreth, City Librarian  
Adjourn

Summary: Susan Hildreth discussed how the meeting would focus on the renovation & expansion of the current branch library. The Library has looked at other potential sites including the Pagoda Theater, the Gap Building, and the Kresge property. For the best option at this time is to renovate the existing building. She then presented and showed examples of general library service trends including technology, staff roles, self-service, reaching user domains, and the library as "community living room." Deane Corbell explained the Community Needs Assessment process and results.

Marilyn Thompson presented the project goals: seismic upgrade, ADA access (including a new elevator & restrooms), a small expansion to accommodate space lost to these new elements, and systems upgrades such as the electrical system. She explained the RFO process which helped select the firm of Liddy Maynard Stacy Architects and introduced architects Marsha Maynard, Roberto Shenberg, and Beth Morris. Marsha Maynard explained the firm's background and outlined several opportunities and challenges in renovating the North Beach Branch Library.

Lizzy Hirsch explained the Recreation and Park Department's plans for the surrounding park.

Susan Hildreth concluded that the Library appreciates the precious dollars it has for this project and will continue to interact with other agencies and community members to discuss alternative options for using the branch.