

HINSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ad Hoc Facilities Space Audit Committee, Meeting
MINUTES
Friday, December 15, 2023

Present: John Bloomfield, President; Magda Sokolowski, Vice President; Chun Ye, Trustee Treasurer

Also Present: Karen Kleckner Keefe, Executive Director; Bob Bell, IT & Facilities Manager; Lizzy Boden, Adult Services Manager; Martha Kennedy, Patron Services Manager; Lisa Winchell, Youth Services Manager

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 am.

The committee reviewed the pros and cons of the three design options presented by HGA at the last meeting and updated priorities for the project.

- 1) Promote safety, eg, making it difficult or less appealing for young children to reach doors, stairs, or elevator without a caregiver. Make it difficult or unappealing for unaccompanied adults to observe or interact with unknown children.
- 2) Reduce congestion—especially before and after program times, at doors and elevator. (Is widening the stairs or adding another set or 2nd elevator an option? Or glass instead of opaque walls?)
- 3) Create or enhance a meeting room/programming space that can accommodate up to 90 audience members in chairs. AV must be intuitive enough that a patron can operate with a one-page instruction sheet. Space must have walls and at least one door. If not adjacent to staff kitchen, a sink and space for light food storage/prep should be considered.
- 4) Improve utility of main floor “living room” as programming space—furnishing should be lightweight or on castors and can be temporarily stored in an adjacent area. 2nd floor seating area overlooking the “living room” remains useable as overflow seating for large events. Adequate storage for chairs, AV, and other materials routinely needed for After Dark events on main floor.
- 5) Improve sight lines in all public areas—staff need to see entrances, other service points, and patron activity.
- 6) Increase and/or improve areas for work, study, phone calls in small rooms or work spaces that provide a sense of privacy (eg, banquette seating or 3-wall “rooms”)
- 7) Reduce space currently dedicated to an enclosed Quiet Reading Room. Keep space away from busier/louder areas.
- 8) Staff spaces provide environments that can accommodate needs for collaboration as well as concentration. More interaction with staff from other departments is desired.

There is strong interest in a main entrance that is safer, more equitable, more efficient, more identifiable, and less congested. And while an entrance at the northwest corner of the building could accomplish many of those things, there is concern about designing the whole refresh around a feature that may struggle to get Village approval.

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The committee also expressed interest in any ideas that would make access to the new plaza on the southeast side of the building easier to access for staff and patrons in the Library.

In general, the committee prefers Option “A,” with some initial changes.

1. Move Community Room to Northeast corner of Main Floor. No separate “after hours” vestibule entrance.
2. Move YA downstairs (pro—middle school services managed by YS staff already working down there and higher noise tolerance on lower level; con—may not be able to have as many staff collocated.) **MAY NEED FURTHER DISCUSSION**
3. Like moving Patron Services to North Wall (concerns about visibility in the plan that had it wrapped around the stairs)
4. Like a “marketplace” to promote browsing/discovery of high-interest titles.
5. Quiet Reading Area reduced. (Move to existing Board Room?)
6. Assume library will not be able to move staff space into Village Hall.
7. Not all added work/study spaces need to be literal rooms. High-backed areas with sound protection and a sense of moderate privacy will work for many users.
8. Lower Level multipurpose room—YS staff would prefer one-level; preserving the stage not necessary. (Note: stage demolition may prove very difficult or expensive—other options for making the space function better “as is” should be considered.)

Staff will continue to discuss what we are trying to improve with a new space plan—what challenges can smart design fix?

On a motion by John Bloomfield and seconded by Magda Sokolowski, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 am.