

Library Committee

Minutes

July 31, 2008

Present: Hobart, James, Rothstein, Sobers, Randle,
Gifford, Rorabaugh, Ryan, and Rose

Absent: Mossel, Grant, and Manning

Chair Luanne Rothstein called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 p.m. at City Hall. The meeting was turned over to the consulting firm of Hartzell-Mika.

The firm held focus groups, interviewed key community leaders, analyzed Library documents, reviewed reports from Architect and Fire Marshall, evaluated comparative statistics, reviewed site options, and provided professional observations based on many years of experience in Libraries. The firm elaborated on many of these areas.

Mayor Warba gave a brief talk and encouraged the Library Committee to reach a consensus on the Library issues. He believes the General Fund cannot continue to subsidize the Library Fund in the same capacity as in the past.

Fire Marshall, Scott Mroz also gave a brief presentation on his inspection of the Library. He gave the Library a fair assessment based on his experience and knowledge. He listed about twenty issues that needed to be addressed at the current location.

Gaylynn reported that the public schools will no longer have a media specialist and believes that the Library will become more important for students for future use. Gaylynn also went over the Fishbeck report that stated at least \$303,000 would need to be spent to bring the current building to code. That number does not include any additional expense for things that might be found along the way.

Chair Rothstein asked the members of Hartzell-Mika if they had a recommendation for the committee. The answer was to research becoming a District Library with a new location. Putting more money in current building does not make good financial sense.

Comments from the meeting as follows:

Parking will be an issue if Library moved across from City Hall.

Add to Public Safety Building.

District Library acts independently with a Board. Many issues would be resolved prior to putting the District Library issue on a ballot. Not accountable to anyone including the City Commission. The Board is responsible for money, polices, etc. The first Board is appointed after election, the Board can be elected by popular vote.

Some are in favor of new Library but wonders what will happen if current building sits for five or six years.

The City does own the land across the street from City Hall and there is enough land to build the size of building that is needed.

It would be a waste to put more money into the current site. Ask yourself if you want to serve the population of the community. Decisions need to be made. Please be part of the solution.

At the next meeting the committee will review location and funding and hopefully come to an agreement.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m. The next two meetings will be at City Hall at 6:30 on August 12th and 6:30 on August 26th.