

Pleasant Hill Library Task Force Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: September 11, 2014

Small Community Room, Pleasant Hill City Hall, 100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Attendees:

- Michael Harris, Pleasant Hill City Council
- Jack Weir, Pleasant Hill City Council
- Jessica Hudson, Contra Costa County Library
- Sandra Bonato, PH Recreation & Park District Board
- Sherry Sterrett, PH Recreation & Park District Board
- Jack Prosek, Pleasant Hill Library Fund
- Katherine Bracken, CCC Library Commission
- Brian Crowell, Friends of the Library
- Jennifer Andersen, PH Education Commission
- June Catalano, City Manager
- Danielle Habr, City staff
- Martin Nelis, City staff

Reports from Sub-committees

1. Needs Assessment & Sites Analysis

Chair Harris reported on two meetings that had taken place recently. The first meeting was held at the Recreation & Park District offices and was attended by Board members Sandy Bonato and Sherry Sterrett, General Manager Bob Berggren, City Manager June Catalano, County Librarian Jessica Hudson, Chair Harris and staff liaison Martin Nelis. The meeting discussed the possibility of having a new library facility located somewhere at Pleasant Hill Park. Chair Harris stated the idea was to have an exchange of land with the District in order to put the facility at this location.

He reported that there was not consensus at the meeting regarding this proposal. He stated that various concerns were presented by Boardmember Sherry Sterrett and Bob Berggren. Chair Harris said that he asked General Manager Berggren to put in writing what the issues and concerns were in regard to the proposal. In return, City staff would provide some site plans showing the size and possible locations for a library building superimposed on an aerial map of Pleasant Hill Park. It was agreed at the meeting that the District and City would exchange this information within four to six weeks.

The Needs subcommittee met on Monday, September 8th at City Hall. At this meeting, the committee also discussed another possible location for a new library. The site currently houses the Public Service Center ('Corpyard') and Frank Salfigere park adjacent to the Community Center. Chair Harris stated that the site had many positive attributes including that it was easily accessible, adjacent to the Community Center, YMCA, Valley View Middle School and College Park High School. The disadvantage of this site is that the PSC would have to be relocated and rebuilt, and the site may need a significant amount of environmental remediation. Chief Building Official, Mike Nielsen, had estimated that the total cost of relocation and remediation of the PSC

site could be around \$20 million. Chair Harris asked the City Manager to explore in more detail the possibility and cost of relocating the PSC to the Flood Control property off Beatrice Road.

2. Community Outreach

Committee Chair, Brian Crowell, introduced Lynn Murphy as a new member of the Community Outreach subcommittee. He announced that the second draft of the FAQ's was now available for further review and discussion. The primary author of the FAQ's was Librarian Patrick Remer. The questions that are addressed in the FAQ document are:

- a. How is the current Library facility used now?
- b. Why does Pleasant Hill need a new Library building?
- c. How will a new Library building support education in Pleasant Hill?
- d. What will it look like, and how big will it be?
- e. Where will the new Library be located?
- f. How much will a new Library building cost?
- g. Will the Library hours or staffing be increased with a new facility?
- h. How can I give my input or get involved?

The Task Force members reviewed the FAQ's and agreed to provide additional feedback to the Community Outreach committee prior to the next meeting of the Task Force. Chair Harris asked members to send their comments or edits to the FAQ's to Martin Nelis so that he could compile all of the feedback and forward to the Community Outreach committee. He also suggested that the Needs Subcommittee review the answer to Question (e) above and revise as needed.

Jessica Hudson suggested that the committee should remove the site locations map that is currently included with the FAQ's. The group decided to include the PSC site as one other possible location that should be listed on the FAQ's. Chair Harris asked that the introduction of the FAQ's include a statement that the Task Force is composed of the following organizations (name organizations).

Sandy Bonato suggested that it might too soon to begin describing the new facility as a "Library and Learning Center". Chair Harris asked that the name of the facility should be discussed in more detail at the next meeting of the Task Force. He suggested that "Pleasant Hill Community Library" was one possible name.

Councilmember Weir stated that one of the most important things to keep in mind is to come up with the best proposal for a new facility that will garner the support of a wide section of the community for funding the project through a bond measure or otherwise. He also suggested that when the FAQ's are finalized, the Task Force should try to get the maximum amount of positive media coverage and asked if there was a timeline set for this. Chair Harris replied that he thought the FAQ's would probably not be finalized until early in 2015. City Manager, June Catalano,

suggested that input should be sought from the various boards of organizations that are represented on the Task Force.

3. Funding/Finance Subcommittee

Chair Jessica Hudson announced that the State Librarian recently visited Pleasant Hill Library. She stated that unfortunately there was no funding currently planned at the State level for new library construction. She reported that the Funding subcommittee was putting future meetings on hold until it becomes clear where the new facility is located and the proposed composition of the building.

Chair Harris asked the committee to get a detailed analysis of how other libraries, which have been built over the past ten years or so, were funded. The committee would also provide details on how the operational costs of these libraries are funded.

Councilmember Weir stated that it was still unclear as to which organization would be taking the lead on the funding of the new facility. He said that a basic assumption at this point should be that the City of Pleasant Hill is the lead organization for the funding of the building.

The Task Force agreed to meet again on Thursday, October 16th at 11:00 a.m.