



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH LIBRARY LECTURE HALL DESIGN COMMITTEE AGENDA

100 Civic Center Drive, City Hall, Community Room
Monday, December 7, 2020 1:00 PM

Library Lecture Hall Design Committee Members:

Jill Johnson-Tucker – Chair
Janet Ray – Vice Chair
Diane Dixon
Matthew Witte
Karen Clark

Staff Members:

Tim Hetherton, Library Services Director
James Houlihan, Deputy Public Works Director
Peter Tauscher, Senior Civil Engineer

The Library Lecture Hall Design Committee meeting is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. Among other things, the Brown Act requires that the Library Lecture Hall Design Committee agenda be posted at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of each regular meeting and that the public be allowed to comment on agenda items before the Committee and items not on the agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Library Lecture Hall Design Committee. The Chair may limit public comments to a reasonable amount of time, generally three (3) minutes per person.

The City of Newport Beach's goal is to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, we will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact Peter Tauscher, Senior Civil Engineer, at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible at (949) 644-3316 or ptauscher@newportbeachca.gov.

NOTICE REGARDING PRESENTATIONS REQUIRING USE OF CITY EQUIPMENT

Any presentation requiring the use of the City of Newport Beach's equipment must be submitted to the Public Works Department 24-hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Public comments are invited on agenda and non-agenda items generally considered to be within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Library Lecture Hall Design Committee. Speakers must limit comments to three (3) minutes. Before speaking, we invite, but do not require, you to state your name for the record. The Library Lecture Hall Design Committee has the discretion to extend or shorten the speakers' time limit on agenda or non-agenda items, provided the time limit adjustment is applied equally to all speakers. As a courtesy, please turn cell phones off or set them in the silent mode.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. *Public Comments*

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. *Approval of Minutes*

VI. CURRENT BUSINESS

1. *Project review*
2. *Robert Coffee and the architectural team presentation and discussion of possible interior and exterior layouts to the Library Lecture Hall Design Committee*
3. *Continued discussion of project schedule, programming and concepts*

VII MATTERS WHICH COMMITTEE MEMBERS WOULD LIKE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION OR REPORT (NON-DISCUSSION ITEM)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH LIBRARY LECTURE HALL DESIGN COMMITTEE MINUTES

801 Narcissus Avenue, OASIS Senior Center – Evelyn Hart Event Center
Monday, October 26, 2020 1:00 PM

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker, Vice Chair Janet Ray, Karen Clark.

Absent: Council Member Diane Dixon, Matthew Witte.

III. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

None.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. *Approval of Minutes*

A motion was made by Vice Chair Ray, and was seconded by Committee Member Clark to approve the *Draft Minutes of the September 14, 2020, Library Lecture Hall Design Committee Meeting, with amendments from Mr. Mosher.*

The motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

AYES: Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker, Vice Chair Janet Ray,
Karen Clark

NOES: None

ABSENT: Council Member Diane Dixon, Matthew Witte

ABSTAIN: None.

VI. CURRENT BUSINESS

1. *Robert Coffee and the architectural team presentation and discussion of possible interior and exterior layouts to the Library Lecture Hall Design Committee*

Mr. Coffee highlighted points from the previous meeting. Specifically, the decision to move forward with Scheme 3, establishing the building footprint, and progress made obtaining approvals from the City's Building Division. Mr. Coffee stated that they met with the Building Division to complete a code analysis and clarified that these discussions confirmed they are doing well moving along.

He noted two issues they are working through for on project. First, focusing that the building will be primarily a lecture hall not a performance theater. Mr. Coffee noted some of the differences between a performance-oriented hall and a lecture hall.

Mr. Coffee explained the second challenge they are encountering is to incorporate natural light into the project. He presented the three-dimensional model available to the Committee to better understand the space.

Mr. Coffee then described Scheme 3 and the way in which the changes that have been implemented have affected seating. He explained that now they have could have up to 299 seats and showed the Committee the seat layout for the lecture hall.

Mr. Coffee also pointed to various illustrations, the windows and the risers. He described the way some of the acoustics will work and the way in which the layout will help direct the speaker's voice in to the audience.

He further showed the sketches and provided examples of the space with the height and width. Mr. Coffee noted they are trying to achieve seating spacing with good sightlines.

Chair Johnson-Tucker stated she is happy with the spacing.

Mr. Coffee continued to describe the seat spacing and spoke about the projecting system they have incorporated with excellent resolution. He noted they are in discussions with the City regarding the requirements with some of the architectural elements and how far out the building reaches.

He described where the trees would be and the parking lot in relation to the entry space. He noted he would like for the entry space to be more personal than the entry space into City Hall. Mr. Coffee described the location of the entry space in relation to the library space.

Vice Chair Ray asked about the feasibility of Mr. Coffee's proposal with the budget and needs.

Mr. Coffee pointed out where the various walls would be in relation to the glass wall and the restrooms. Mr. Coffee also pointed out how the feeling of the building would be different on different sides. He noted a few accent walls with various patterns on different sides. Mr. Coffee pointed out the ramp entering into the lecture hall and the windows looking out into the courtyard. He described the walls and panels inside the lecture hall, including the space in the front row.

He also discussed the blinds that would be used in the lecture hall. Using illustrations, he further explained how the shape of the building would work. He noted where the ADA compliant seats would be in relation to the stage. Mr. Coffee responded to comments regarding the height and visibility.

Committee Member Clark asked whether the elements to the right of the trees are windows or other decorative elements.

Mr. Coffee explained the way windows were placed and explained why it was done for elevation. He further explained some challenges they are having with ceilings and the entry way.

Chair Johnson-Tucker noted her concerns with the elevations and windows.

Mr. Coffee described some of the trees along the library that have been presented in the proposal.

He stated there are three primary areas that need to be considered, one being the Avocado Street frontage, the entry plaza and the Bamboo Courtyard.

Committee Member Clark noted she loves the windows.

Vice Chair Ray stated she likes having the windows go around because it gives a welcoming feeling. She also noted a lot of drama will be added.

Committee Member Clark asked whether the back area would be expanded.

Mr. Coffee noted the change from the proposal where the lobby and the building were turned around and the entrance as through the side, to the current proposals where the lobby and lecture hall connect.

Committee Member Clark asked what happened to the entry door between the lobby and the theatre.

Mr. Coffee stated that he was told it would be very expensive and difficult to place those two entries and still have good acoustics.

Chair Johnson-Tucker noted it is not a corridor anymore but the reason for the change makes sense in order to have more natural light.

Mr. Coffee noted the area is about twenty-feet and the other area is about ten and explained the goal of natural light was achieved as well as keeping good acoustics.

Chair Johnson-Tucker stressed the goal was to have people to walk from the lobby to the hall area without there being a barrier.

Mr. Coffee suggested placing two doors with pivots.

Vice Chair Ray asked whether the restrooms are connected.

Chair Johnson-Tucker noted the images Mr. Coffee provided were beautiful and depicted the natural light and side walls. She asked Mr. Coffee to continue with the design. She also stated she now understands Mr. Coffee's explanation for the slope.

Mr. Coffee explained there will be further discussions about projection screens and his suggestion for a monitor instead of a projector.

Chair Johnson-Tucker spoke about the need to have technology that can be upgraded easily. She also asked for Mr. Coffee to remember Committee Dixon's comments regarding her concern with direct light and the need for the speaker to be able to see.

Peter Tauscher asked about the rounded corner and whether Chair Johnson-Tucker liked it or wanted it to match the City Hall architecture instead of the library.

Chair Johnson-Tucker asked about the storage space and the glass.

Mr. Coffee explained the various options available with the glass and the storage area and explained the need to discuss this topic in order to meet needs. He spoke of the drop off area and the location of the ramp in relation to the lecture hall.

Mr. Tauscher noted his concern with maintaining the large windows in the entry and the danger that they might be damaged.

Mr. Coffee explained the dimensions of the glass windows.

Chair Johnson-Tucker asked whether it was taller than seven feet. She opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Jim Mosher suggested the design should be presented to the Arts Commission given that they are stakeholders. He also suggested to place signage so patrons can find their destination. Third, Mr. Mosher noted the acoustics are important and are being addressed as well as technology for lectures. Finally, he stated he did not understand the purpose of the AV room if there is no technology for projectors.

Mr. Coffee stated the technology of the acoustics and lighting would be addressed.

Landscape Architect, Mr. Bill Rabben explained the purpose of connecting the building with other buildings around it and the other landscape area around it. He noted the Scheme 3 has three main parts with the first being the frontage along Avocado Street. He provided some design ideas such as giving the illusion the building is floating. He continued that along the north and south, some sycamore trees would be repositioned so the building has greater meaning derived from the existing site.

Mr. Rabben spoke of the new entry to the lecture hall and the library and the sense of openness it provides. He detailed his idea to open that area that is more similar to an entry court to create a new sense of arrival with clear orientation to the building. Mr. Rabben spoke of the various trees that would be incorporated and how they would be beneficial to the landscaping.

Mr. Rabben noted some ideas to enrich the plaza space which is also the entrance to the Civic Center. He explained to Committee Member Clark where the drop-off area will be. He explained both the courtyard and plaza areas might be made of a different texture and more of a pedestrian plaza space and feel.

Mr. Coffee explained he would like to eliminate the curb because it is a high-transited zone and his proposal to do so. He noted how the area would stand out so people can find their way.

Mr. Rabben stressed the materials would be used to create an inviting entry-way.

Mr. Coffee confirmed the material that would be used is asphalt.

Mr. Rabben presented the series of elements to develop the courtyard include the landscape with trees and a variety of seating and a water element of some sort. He stressed they wanted to create a sense of openness and enlightened environment. He explained how the space provides flexibility for tables and chairs for various events with fifty to seventy people.

He explained the wall on the westside of the courtyard is a design feature with light openings. Mr. Rabben provided an example of the water element that could be used as a welcoming element.

Mr. Rabben discussed the view from the inside of the building pointing out the ramp and the view of the trees.

Mr. Coffee provided the length and width of the walls.

Mr. Rabben described the images provided as examples of the various options for the space. Including the availability of shelter features, seating arrangements, intimacy, scale and painting and patterns.

Vice Chair Ray noted some concerns with people congregating and with cost of extending the building further towards Avocado Avenue.

Mr. Tauscher noted there is no funding for the Bamboo Courtyard.

Mr. Coffee outlined the various types of functions that would be hosted in the Lecture Hall and the give and take with prioritizing on the budget.

Committee Member Clark opined the area cannot be blocked off because that area is used.

Chair Johnson-Tucker noted she is not sure she would like to put a significant amount of money into the Bamboo Courtyard. In addition, she noted concerns with maintaining the proposed water features and noise along Avocado Street.

She recommended meeting with various City staff to discuss the use of the space.

Mr. Rabben noted he could provide some information regarding the maintenance of the water features and would provide answers to Chair Johnson-Tucker's concerns at a later subcommittee.

Chair Johnson-Tucker opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Mosher noted that the original overall plan included four large trees at the library entry drive and he would like to see what it looks like from ground level because it appears from the diagram that the trees are blocking the view.

2. *Continued discussion of project schedule, programming and concepts*

None.

VII. MATTERS WHICH COMMITTEE MEMBERS WOULD LIKE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION OR REPORT (NON-DISCUSSION ITEM)

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Johnson-Tucker adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

Chair Jill Johnson-Tucker