Minutes of the meeting of the Library Building Committee

Oct. 25, 2017

**Attending**: **Committee members:** Peter Feinstein (chair), Meredith Fine, Neil Glickstein, Emily Glover, Carol Healy, Paul McGeary (vice-chair).

**Staff**: Deborah Kelsey

**Public**: Mern Sibley (Saunders House Stewardship Committee), Brad Dore (Dore & Whittier architects).

**Absent**: Committee members Fran Aliberte, Fred Cowan and Joe Grella.

**Mr. Feinstein** introduced the new members of the Committee, Neil Glickstein and Carol Healy and noted that new member Joseph Grella was unable to attend. Ms. Glover arrived after the meeting had begun.

**Mr. Feinstein** briefly recapped for the new members the history of the building effort. He noted that the library building program submitted in support of the Library's application for a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) called for a facility of approximately 28,000 square feet and that early estimates of cost were in the $20 million range.

**Mr. Dore** noted that his firm, which had prepared the original design submitted in support of the project, had been asked to look into what could be done within the existing footprint including the Monell Building, the 1913 addition and the Saunders House. He used silhouettes of each of the three facilities to illustrate his discussion.

He said his firm would examine the facility's existing conditions to see what they could handle from programmatic perspective. He said the basic question was "How does it meet the objectives of the 21st century program?" He said the firm entered the study with a "clean slate and an open mind."

He said the "baseline" was that the MBLC required 28,000 square feet of library space.

He noted that it might not make sense to renovate, but before that determination could be made, his firm needed to know " which way you want to go."

Once it was determined which of the existing structures were in scope, he said, the next step would be to refine the design and generate cost estimates. It would not be, he noted, a full design, but a planning document. He reiterated the assumption that the Saunders House was a standalone project and not part of the building program.  He also noted that, generally, a new building would be more efficient than retrofitting the existing one.

**Mr. McGeary** asked when the study when the results of the study would be available.

**Mr. Dore** said he hoped to have it completed by the end of the first quarter of 2018

**Next meetin**g: The next meeting of the Building Committee will be on **Thursday, Nov.29, at 4 p.m.** in the Byers-Davidson conference room of the Saunders House.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Paul McGeary, vice-chair