

## Lamond-Riggs Library Community Meeting, Jan. 17, 2019

### **In Attendance:**

35 members of the library's community, ANC Commissioner- Frank Wiles, DCPL Board member Kamili Anderson, a representative from Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie's office, Reuben Hameed (Project Architect, HGA), Todd Buffinton (Project Manager, Consigli), and DC Library staff.

**Speakers** - Richard Reyes-Gavilan (Director DC Library), Peter Cook (Design Principal, HGA), Jane Dederling (Library Designer, HGA)

### **Opening Introduction and Slideshow:**

Richard Reyes-Gavilan (RR-G) welcomed everyone and made the introduction, he then discussed the construction timeline. Construction will begin, if all goes well, sometime in early 2020 – then 18 months later the community should have a phenomenal new building. He then handed the discussion over to Peter Cook and Jane Dederling.

Peter Cook introduced the design and construction team members in attendance and then, with Jane Dederling, discussed the slide show explaining how the information for the building plan had been collected through three surveys, 10 focus groups and community meetings. Topics covered included the “feel of the building”, the programs the building might accommodate and how the community might use the building. Peter and Jane discussed various examples of ideas used in other libraries. Peter then explained that the design team will use the collected information to create a building plan. Once there is a confirmed building plan, the design work will begin.

At the conclusion of the slide presentation, Richard Reyes-Gavilan, Peter Cook, and Jane Dederling took questions and comments.

### **Questions and Comments:**

**The themes of comfort, technology, quiet Spaces – are these themes that you got from us?**

**PC** - Yes, there were a number of themes that repeatedly appeared on survey responses, in focus groups and at the community meetings.

**Looking at these slides I see there's an absence of art. I don't see any pictures, paintings, or any sculptures. Do you intend to put art in our building?**

**RR-G** - Thanks for bringing that up. The last few projects that we've done have included art specific for that community. As well as making the interiors unique to the community we feel that the art is also an important part of the project.

**You've gone from explaining places by physical things associated with the places to services associated with the places ... and that's kind of a shift, and that's a good shift.**

**JD** – It's still about place, it is about services, but it's also about creating a place that, for example, adults can use but can also be used for other services.

**Will we have Mac computers? I had to go all the way down to MLK to use a Mac.**

**RR-G** – That's a library decision, not one made by the architects. Typically, we've got Macs or PCs. It's a bit of a challenge supporting both. What we often find is that people use our Macs for the same reasons they use our PCs. If there's a desire for Macs, we can consider incorporating them but that's a decision less about the architecture and more about the actual fixed workstations in the building.

**Will the new library have the same footprint as this building? Or will there be scope for expanding the internal square footage?**

**PC** – I suspect we will modify the actual footprint. As for the overall square footage, it will be close to the same size.

**Are we going to have a bigger building? Less grass?**

**PC** – there's the challenge of incorporating parking, nature, views out of doors ... we're just trying to finalize the program so that we know what the building needs to do.

**RR-G** – Even if the building is the same size as this building, a significant part of the space that you do not currently have access to will be made public. Staff spaces used to be built larger, much larger than we need today. There was a lot of book processing that no longer takes place within a library. In our MLK library downtown that we are currently modernizing, we are using the same envelope but will be picking up 100,000 square feet of additional public space by virtue of these giant staff areas that we no longer use.

**Where do you vision there'll be parking for bikes?**

**PC** – I want to answer your question but at the same time, we are still in the planning phase for this project. The bike parking will have to be near the entry but at this time, we don't really know where the entry will be ... so, until we've completed a building plan we won't know the design, so, you can see, as much as I'd like to answer you, why I can't answer your question at this time.

**What is that circular object in the background on the left?**

**JD** - That is a bicycle from a repair clinic held at that library.

**RR-G** – We've had bike repair stations at Anacostia

**I want to know that we have rooms and spaces to accommodate people who are challenged physically and mentally.**

**I am wondering since you mentioned MLK and Southwest - is this the same company doing all these libraries?**

(RR-G explained to the community guest the process of RFPs, bidding, and how the teams are chosen for each library project.)

**I have a comment, not a question, I would love to see children's programs being expanded. I don't want my children infringing on somebody else's enjoyment of the library at the same time, I want my children to be able to enjoy being here. You are showing us examples of open libraries, how can we all enjoy the library if noise is an issue?**

**RR-G** – I think we echo your feelings, especially for early childhood spaces. There's a need for security too. You are absolutely right.

**I'd like to 'piggyback' on the previous comment, I think teens need to have an area where they too can be themselves without worrying about making too much noise.**

**RR-G** – We absolutely agree with you.

**I worked in open spaced schools and they did not work.**

**RR-G** - I think it's possible to create an aesthetically attractive space that also functions well.

**I really like the designs you've just shown and the engagement from inside to outside. I also like the idea of large meeting rooms that are thoughtfully designed regarding the acoustics and technology – those would be a really great addition to this neighborhood.**

**So far the discussion of the library has been about this library itself, what about the ‘elephant’ in the room and the interaction of our new library building with the Cafritz project going up across the street?**

**RR-G** - That’s a good question. The library has a long history of what its mission is and what it has to do for communities. This building is not going to be part of a development, there’s not going to be retail in here with businesses that ‘come-and-go’ depending upon the whims of the economy.

**We would like a WOW factor both on the inside and also on the outside. We really appreciated seeing on the library tour how different a library can look.**

**Have you thought about how a large meeting room can be subdivided into smaller rooms when the large room isn’t needed?**

**RR-G** - I find that partitions look great on paper but they rarely work well, they don’t provide a lot of acoustic separation, they require a lot of staff involvement. If there’s something that Peter can show me that makes a lot of sense well, then maybe we can be convinced to try it. I’m not sold on the partitions. We will work to make sure there’s a variety of spaces for different meeting sizes.

**Where are you going to find space for additional parking?**

**RR-G** – We are still in the building plan phase, parking will be part of the discussion.

**We’re talking about a meeting room for 100 people, where are all these people going to park? We only have one handicap spot.**

**RR-G** – Parking is a difficult question and one we will be addressing in the design phase. We don’t want the community to have a significantly smaller library in order to have more parking.

**What about going underground?**

**RR-G** – again, it would significantly impact the size of this building in accommodating an underground garage.

**I think Woodridge is gorgeous but it’s too noisy for me to use as a library.**

**RR-G** – it’s possible to achieve both a beautiful library and one that functions well. Go see the new Cleveland Park Library.

**I love the rooftop garden at Woodridge, it’s beautiful, quiet, and a super quiet place to work.**

**Some libraries have cafes, have you thought of one for here?**

**RR-G** – There is a café adjacent to the West End Library, it’s not on the library’s property, it is part of a mixed used development. Running cafes is not something that libraries do particularly well. You are always welcome to bring your coffee to the library.