

**Special Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees**  
**Tuesday, August 29, 2006 - Library Board Room**  
**01:00 PM - 04:00 PM**

Minutes of Actions and Decisions of the Board of Library Trustees of the Bellingham Public Library as Authorized by RCW 27.12.210 and SEC. 7.02 Charter of the City of Bellingham.

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**Board Members Present:** Chairperson: Tim Douglas, Vice-Chairperson: Alan Kemble, Faye Hill, Vicky Marshall, David Edelstein

**Board Members Absent:**

**Library Staff:** Pam Kiesner; Lizz Roberts; Scott Blume; Gladys Fullford

**Others:** Tom Glenn, Friends of BPL, Christine Walsh, Friends President, Ken and Phyllis Weber, Friends, Dean Kahn, Bellingham Herald, Marilyn Olsen, Whatcom Independent, Emily Weiner, Cascadia Weekly, Dillion Honcoop, KGMI, Linda Lnagey, Member Guide Meridian/Cordata Neighborhood Association, Velma Wendt, Claude Hill, Bill Hinely, Carolyn Rice, Tara Sundin, Becky Pillai, Mareu Larr, and Margaret Ziegler

**Called to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson, Alan Kemble, who explained this is a walking tour of four sites: Maritime Heritage Park, ReStore/Sash & Door, Municipal Court and the current library block. Pam Kiesner had copies of the Facilities Needs Assessment, which can also be found on the library's website. Four sets of materials sent to Board members were available to share. Tim Douglas added that this is one element of total library service. The four sites are municipally owned and judged to be the best options for the Board to consider for addition or replacement of the central library which is long overdue. There is currently a structural and seismic integrity review of the Fairhaven Branch. Long time preservation of that building is very important. Another matter pending is how to address a north side presence. The focus today is on the central library services.

**Maritime Heritage Park:** David Edelstein commented on the attributes. After discussing the Re-Store/Sash & Door site, and wondering if it would be large enough or too far away from the central business district and the city business center, he realized this park is one of the least used and well known parks in our community. David suggested a library could be built down on the flat or into the hill and coupled with parking which bring the community to the park. Having a library/park would be very important. A library in the park with an elevator that would lift the public from the ground floor where the lawn is up to the top of the hill would tie everything together. This would be an opportunity for the museum, children's museum, civic center, park, and waterfront to be something extremely special.

Tim added that in the evolution of site evaluations, the waterfront area was not on the radar screen. A library in this particular location becomes an initial beginning for the evolution of redevelopment of the waterfront. An elevator would complement what exists now as a pedestrian passage to the bluff. A building set up against the bluff could take advantage of all the views and the open space that is here. The public has said they do want an indoor/outdoor connection as a part of the library solution. There is the possibility of a connection to parking which could be put out of sight, between the building and the bluff. It would not be necessary to pave over more open space. Parking could possibly be accessed from the top of the bluff as well as or instead of coming through the park area. One advantage is that the property slopes up, and the opportunity of doing something underneath with the topography to take advantage of that is something we need to keep in mind.

David added that it is very possible that we are ahead of our time here. In our lifetimes we will see something very new and beautiful on the old Sash & Door site. David said it would be a wonderful thing to connect the sites with a footbridge over the creek. There will also be tremendous changes in the Georgia Pacific site, but we also see changes in Old Town. Changes will accelerate, and we will be proud of this part of our community.

Tim said the other potential possibility in the area is for mixed use as other properties develop. Tim has heard a concern about an element that populates Old Town, but he sees the example of Holly Street and Railroad as a great one to take into account. There were decisions about City and private investments there. We can compare the diversity of uses today to just a few years ago. We can apply many of the same things to the Maritime Heritage area. We can look ahead to what it might be like with the library being just one element of the change to come, it will be an entirely different place. The Board is looking 50 years out and has to be careful of not being constricted by the way things and activities are today. The Board needs to look imaginatively and creatively at how it could look.

Faye commented that it is a beautiful site and knows it will change extensively, but is concerned about taking up some park area. The park becomes more important as the waterfront develops.

Alan had a similar concern. Although this is not a well used park on an individual basis, it is a function used park with festivals and rallies. Alan's reservation would be to see too much of the park disappear for a building.

Pam pointed out the deed restriction information for this area in the packets. One of the caveats is that if we were to take park property, we would need to replace it with some other property.

David said the Board has said a minimum square foot threshold of approximately an acre and a half is needed. The Re-Store/Sash & Door site is an acre and a half including parking. If a library was built in this park, any other use would not be constrained. David suggested replacing the park land with the Re-Store/Sash & Door land. Tim said the way deed restrictions work, land taken would have to be replaced with non-park land of equal value. David said we could ask our local architects to become part of a design competition, if that is the way we manage it, to come up with a scheme to use the bank portion. If we built a building into the bank we would not lose much of the flat part of the park.

Alan said we know the amount of piling needed for Sash & Door and the current library block. David said the park land would be similar. Everything on the flat land was tidelands 150 years ago. Anywhere we build a masonry/steel/concrete public building in the civic center will require piling to hold up the structure. Tim mentioned the consideration of how to get vehicles, including service vehicles, and people into a building.

There are different implications for different locations. David mentioned a concern if we built into a hillside would we be visible? Faye remarked that booklovers have a way. Tim stressed the positive force that there is traffic in the area that could bring people to the library. Pam mentioned that this site was toured during the city sponsored place making workshop a few weeks ago. It talked about the activity in the park and how the park could be made better by drawing in the community and creating edge uses. It was interesting that the idea of a library building and place making were being discussed at the same time.

Tim mentioned that when the Bellis Fair Mall was created, Old Town was dark with very little pedestrian lighting. An agreement was arranged for a contribution from the owners of the mall site of \$400,000 towards helping with the transition downtown. One of the projects that took place was the installation of all the historic lighting that is now present. Similar attention should be paid to this site for additional lighting providing a sense of both sense and security. David said that thought would be germane to any site that is chosen.

**Re-Store/Sash & Door:** Tim mentioned that this site could also be called the river walk or creek walk site. This site was acquired by the city for the purposes of economic development to help stimulate the area between downtown and the waterfront. The Re-Store will be relocating by the end of the year. Tara Sundin confirmed this information.

Alan asked to clarify the buildable site. Tara said the setback is 50 feet from the creek, and would be farther in than the present building. She also said there is a process to go through for a possible variance on the setbacks. The city has recently hired a survey crew to determine the actual setback.

David said a workable hypothesis would be that we could build a 2 or 3 story building on this site, and it would work.

Tim said there is also a consideration in this area for some kind of mixed use development. Something of value could happen here in Old Town, such as residential with some retail components that would build a village sense that people are hoping to see. A visual corridor from the lettered streets down through Astor Street to the museum would need to be taken under design consideration. We need to make sure a building would not block the view. Another possibility would be to consider a pedestrian crossing across the creek. A bridge could be an asset to the community, open up a view, and allow people to relate more directly with the creek. A trail to parking would be an option. There are many possibilities that are difficult to envision today. Architectural style needs to complement the designs already in place. There has been discussion with the city about circulation. There is a parking lot where buses could turn around.

David mentioned that the Library Board has considered the ability for school bus access or transit access to all of the sites. They are interested in maneuverability for buses around each site.

Alan said the library also has deliveries from big trucks, so this question of maneuverable access is important for whatever site is taken.

Tara answered Tim's question about the studies of what is underground at this site. Tara said both this site and the previous site have the same constraints. The city has spent years studying and coming up with an ecological plan. This was tidelands that have been filled with garbage and construction debris. The Maritime Heritage Park site has some methane; this site does not. Certain construction practices have to be met. Two land uses that are not allowed on the ground floor are residential or daycare facilities. The reason would be residential use might involve digging in the yard. We do need to maintain a three foot clean pack on top of the soil or a building or a parking lot. Mercury presence is not an issue for these sites. Tara said the ground water underneath is clean to a drinkable standard. It may not smell good, but it is not poison.

David said both of these sites are owned by the City of Bellingham. When the city decides to build on either site, they will do it in a manner that would not put anyone in jeopardy.

Faye said that when this site was reviewed it was thought in order to preserve the Astor Street corridor, it might be necessary to have two buildings.

Alan said that depends on where the building setbacks are located and what buildable space is available.

David also thinks the Astor Street corridor is a laudable goal for the community. Everything is negotiable if you can show the community how you are doing an excellent job and why it makes sense. That should not inhibit the public from building what they want built on this site.

Vicky stated that the Board is looking beyond the next ten years to 50 years. What we see today is not what will be in the future, and that needs to be kept in mind.

Alan mentioned the Recycle operation across the street, which can be noisy and smelly. The owners are already looking at alternative sites for the recycling. Alan believes that it is their intent to develop their property up to modern standards, and not have a recycling plant there.

Tim added that the property is definitely worth a lot for activities other than recycling, but the owners do not want to quit doing the recycling business.

**Municipal Court:** Alan said that initially this site was considered too far from downtown and the civic center. There is a fairly commanding view down over downtown with Sehome Hill in the background. County courthouse is visible; the health department, senior center and middle school are nearby. This is actually a fairly central spot. The current building would not be used. The city owns three blocks. Alan's consideration is to combine the two blocks and vacate C Street to make it work with approximately 88,000 square feet. This would allow a building the size we need, but also indoor/outdoor space. Alan envisions a parking facility five or six feet below grade. A plaza would be above parking, a few feet above grade with two entrances, one access favoring downtown, and the second favoring the parking area and the plaza. Alan mentioned the Bellevue Library as an example with two entrances. They only use one circulation desk, which is one of the Board's objectives.

Tim mentioned the connector potential to both Meridian and Northwest Avenue. The whole northern part of the city has a direct and convenient route into this area.

Alan said a negative would be some construction disruption to the nearby neighborhood streets. The finished product with a library information center would be a real plus that people would welcome. The high school is two or three blocks away. The site would probably produce less economic development than the other sites because it is basically residential and civic center. Positives are that it is all level building area, has accessibility from multiple streets, has bus services up and down Girard Street, and is close to the civic center. It is a safer choice, not as visionary as the other choices. When Faye asked why he preferred the two northern blocks, Alan answered because of the middle school nearby. Since a vacation of a street is necessary, C Street is less busy than B Street.

David said all three blocks are almost identical size. The building was not built as a municipal court. When Municipal Court was moved into the building it was with a short term look for the city (five to fifteen years.) A city's long term view would be 50 to 100 years. This building would probably come down and something more substantial for civic use would replace it. David said he thinks the two blocks and vacated street is a wonderful site. A good job could be done for the neighbors in the Lettered Streets to make sure we don't make the street an arterial street. The neighbors would be happy that a new library and a park would be appropriate here.

Pam noted that the smallest block is the Municipal Court parking lot by about 7,000 square feet. The lots are similar.

Tim said a park has been mentioned in all of our considerations to enhance a library. Something would be incorporated in the design here, possibly a urban plaza park for outdoor activities. It would be an attraction for the neighborhood, which could become Bellingham's first information centered neighborhood. We could also draw on the middle school and high school in community service projects to do training in information on electronic and book handling. We could provide an opportunity to gain experience in serving the community as well as learn skills that would be valuable in the workplace. The Lettered Streets make up one of the older neighborhoods. It is in transition with younger families moving in because of affordability. Tim would like to see a change in the name of the street to Letterottie. There could be school design competitions to come up with alphabet-based visuals that could be used up and down the street to define the Letterottie Street. Tim said the city needs to think about circulation patterns in this area. This street has the potential for a better route to what will be the major improved interchange on I-5 in Bellingham. The next big project on I-5 is the Ohio Street interchange.

Alan added that the street actually continues right to the freeway entrance by McDonald's. It crosses over Cornwall and becomes Ohio. This is the way off the freeway for a lot of people.

Tim said that people coming from the eastside, Meridian, Northwest, Alabama and the southside could get here very easily.

Pam pointed out that we have talked with city departments that are currently in this building: Municipal Court, prosecutors, and Information Technology Services in order to inform them that this is a site the library board is interested in. One of the possibilities would be if we could stay in the old library while this was being built, that would be an advantage for the library. However, it would mean that the departments here would need to find temporary quarters until the current library building could be renovated for them. This would get the whole legal system down by the courthouse.

Tim mentioned there is courtroom space in the Federal Building that it is under city ownership.

Alan said the amount of square footage that the city uses in the current Municipal Court building is really quite small: 22,000 square feet. That is equivalent to a little more than the main floor of the current library.

Pam said an exchange would provide the possibility of additional meeting room space for City Hall.

David commented that the current library could be renovated and become a beautiful office building.

Tim added it could in a shorter range be a revenue generator for the city to help cover the general fund expenses to the library. That is a 100% location for anything court or legal related. It would be quite appealing to some people to lease.

David added there is no shortage of public or private uses of that building.

Faye said her favorite thing about the site is the way that it connects with the middle school, high school, and the senior center. An important factor is to look at all those age groups and how important the library is to them and they are to the library.

Vicky added that the connection with the high school. With the culminating projects that all high school students must do to graduate, this is a golden opportunity for the seniors to work with all the information spaces available. This would be a great avenue for them to come and resource back and forth.

Tim said one thing he finds missing in terms as being a predominant part of the city's plan is pedestrian connections from the northern neighborhoods into the city center. Tim said Grand Street offers an opportunity with the museum being there.

Alan said there is a trail from Cornwall down to the waterfront. That is part of a master plan for a more extensive trail system.

Pam said there is a letter from the Planning Department to the library in the board's packet. The Library Board is thinking in terms of the expansion of the downtown boundary. The Planning Department has a concern about our locating the library in what is considered outside the boundaries of the traditional downtown and civic center, and moving away from some of the cultural organizations such as the Whatcom Museum and the Mount Baker Theatre.

Tim added that this is a walking community, and the people should be able to walk another long block for cultural activities. This community is growing and downtown is not going to stop right at City Hall. Tim understands the caution about careful thought about the neighborhoods that are affected, but we should be careful about getting rigidly tied into our definitions about the way things are. The challenge is to think a bit more flexibly.

**Current library block:** Alan stated the Board had technical surveys done to find out what would be needed in the way of pilings to build on some or all of the green space. This is a landfill area where there used to be a pond. The architects, Bellingham Planning Group, came up with some astounding ideas of what could be done on this space.

David said the first question was why we weren't building another floor on the present library. A seismic study on the existing building showed that we are using up the capacity of the piles that are underneath it, up to the high 90 percentile. The library has such a heavy floor load and a civic building is made out of brick or concrete, you cannot build another floor on the current building. The building would require some seismic upgrades if we moved out. We looked at the geological foundation around the library and in the park to understand the feasibility of building an addition or building a free standing new building between the library and City Hall. That is possible with pilings.

Tim added that could include one level of parking. A second level of parking would require more pumping of water and other things would be required; so it is not impossible, but a bit of a challenge. We have also talked about the feasibility of vacating Lottie Street, and making the site larger. A possible design consideration might be to bring the level up to the level of an urban plaza. There is room for open space here.

Faye said there are two ways to go, either add on to the present site, or build another building. It would be wonderful to add on to this site, vacate Lottie Street, have this wonderful plaza, and have underground parking. A consideration is that it would present a problem for the library during construction. Faye said there is room for a green space, but the Board is concerned about preserving the green space. It is a beautiful site.

David said the city should eliminate Lottie Street regardless. Angle parking in place of parallel parking could be put on Commercial Street to recoup some of the lost parking.

Vicky mentioned the discussions about place-making, they talked about turning the alley in front of the library into a pedestrian walkway. It would be a nice connection between the library, the museum and some of the other cultural areas.

Tara added that the city is working with the Arts District, and this idea came up for a better connection from downtown to the new arts and children's museum.

Tim added that one of the drawbacks for the park area is that for several months of the year it is in shadow and not always real warm. One of the drawbacks about doing anything about this is losing the downhill rolling for young people.

David suggested making a downhill rolling area next to the amphitheatre in Maritime Heritage Park.

Pam said another thing the library board needs to come to terms with is whether they recommend demolition or re-use of the current building. Pam also pointed out that the Library Board recommends to the City Council, and the City Council makes the ultimate decisions.

David said if the current building was not here, you could only imagine how fine a job you could do in building a new library here. Maybe the library would be where the depression is, and the park would be on the other side. This could become such a preeminent site, but can the community afford to demolish the perfectly good building.

Alan said the consideration is are we going to continue to run the library with all the construction and it's noise. Alan expects we would have to look for temporary quarters. A lot of our collection would not be available for up to 18 months or two years.

Faye added that when WWU added on to their library, they didn't close. Every day they printed a sheet as to what the changes were, and where people might find things. According to one of the librarians, it was not a disruption.

David said that building an addition onto a building that is in use should not drive the decision. It is a consideration, but should not drive the decision.

Tim said one of the advantages is the continued use of the building that we have had for a long time. Tim mentioned when he first came on the board, he had hoped the library could build an addition across the street. At the time the site was not available. Since that time the County has purchased the site. Tim asked, "If you were building a library in the best place for a library for the next 50 years, is the place where should be?" The City Council will have to weigh the prime use of whatever properties it has available for the uses it is going to need in the future. Tim would like to capitalize on using the building as it already exists as a library because the public has already invested in it, and he is less enthused about tearing the building down. Tim said he is uncomfortable about tearing something down to be replaced with something else.

Vicky pointed out the alley in front of the current library that could be made into a pedestrian walkway. She asked the group to visualize little retail opportunities, coffee shops, tables, children playing with toys and green space. It would make for a wonderful area for pedestrian opportunities and connections.

Alan mentioned the art and children's museum is going behind the building across the street. It will take up two thirds of one half of the block.

Tim said one of the challenges of all the spaces we are looking at, is what happens over time. Three years ago we had public meetings attended by property owners in this area. They were livid because they had not been approached to understand something was being considered here, and were not going to sell. One of the livid property owners has since sold their property to the county. That is what is happening in a changing community. It is very hard to know the specific status of any piece of property. We looked at a lot of properties, but have ended up focusing our attention to that which is under the city ownership. Tim said he had hoped to build on to this side of the library with a view towards Mt Baker and the islands, and incorporating the pedestrian walkway that Vicky had talked about. The County has a four year lease on the property, and then will acquire it with an already agreed upon price. The County is currently doing a lot of planning on its long term needs, trying to get more of its activities closer together. They are being cautious about any of their properties. So, there is a limiting factor on how much we might be able to do here.

David added that although the four sites we have looked at are owned by the city of Bellingham, we have advertised with public notice, requests for proposals. We asked any private owners and real estate agents to please notify us if there is any site in the civic center or close by that would be suitable for a new library. We did not receive any proposals. We have also gone to property owners and asked if they would consider it.

Faye spoke briefly about the proposals from the Bellingham Planning Group. Mostly they were extending on one or both sides of the current building.

Tim mentioned the facility needs report explains that we have done a thorough analysis of the current building and its limitations. One problem we have now is the service access. Outreach trucks have to back out onto the street with poor visibility. We need to deal with such realities as delivery trucks and school bus access as well.

**Public Comment (Library Lecture Room):** Velma Wendt asked where the entrance of a parking garage would be if Lottie Street was vacated.

David replied we could probably enter on the street between the courthouse and the library. It would be a design question.

Claude Hill commented it was commendable that the Board undertook this exercise. It was very enlightening to him. It seemed to Claude that the current building would be much more valuable for the city/county legal function of the city. The Maritime Heritage Park site has the potential to see the magnificent waterfront and all changes. The site has a lot of creative possibilities with potential ideas for working with the hillside with parking, and an elevator.

Linda Langey agreed that the site by the museum is beautiful. She sees more use of the park as the waterfront develops. She would call it a function park with such events as dog shows. Linda said the Municipal Court site has better access, and could be built fresh the way we wanted to build it. There is value in being close to schools and the senior center. Although it is not in the footprint of downtown, Bellingham is growing so much that the footprint should be expanded.

Marilyn Olsen asked if the decision has been made to build a single library rather than other branches in other parts town.

Tim answered the focus is about that one element which is the central library which is a distribution point and the central collection. The Board has not made the decision about how and how quickly to address the other needs of the community. The Board agrees that there needs to be some kind of library presence in the northern part of the town and investing in the needs of the Fairhaven Branch because of the age of that building. When the Board talks about branches, they know it would be delightful for every neighborhood to have its own branch. There is a cost of operating a branch.

Faye added there are branches, and there are presences. Fairhaven is a branch. There is the possibility of a presence with different levels of service including picking up holds, computer access, and a browsing table or cart.

Tim said the Board has concluded that the alternative to replacing the central library given its age, the size of the community and the use we have right now, the alternative is not instead to build multiple branches. That would mean breaking up the central collection and not having a distribution center. The Board recognizes that there is a real need to something in the northern part of the community.

David added that when you build a branch, you are only getting a part of a central library. It makes more sense to bring people to the collection than to bring parts of the collection to the 22 different neighborhoods. The costs of running a full service branch library, not even including the purchase of land and building, wouldn't fly economically.

Vicky clarified that at every board meeting she has attended there have been comments and discussion how to meet the needs of the community outside this central area. The Board is trying to address the needs of the Cordata and Roosevelt area.

David said everything we do must pass the test of cost benefit analysis. We do not have the dollars to do everything we want to do.

Tim mentioned we have a catalog and circulation system in cooperation with the Whatcom County Library System. We are seeing an increase in holds being placed by people from home and work. The Haggan stores around the community are receiving returned books, but they are not distribution points. The Haggan store in Barkley Village is one of our biggest drop-off points. We pick up a full container every day. We only have half the formula covered since there is not the ability for someone to pick up books. There are certain elements of library services that might be possible to provide in certain parts of town.

Margaret Ziegler supports the Municipal Court site. She appreciates how careful the Board has been in doing the site surveys and background work before making a decision. This is the right spot for the accessibility issues. The major streets coming together make for a great location. The proximity to the

middle school, high school, trails along Whatcom Creek, and distance to downtown are very walkable. The library could continue to operate during construction of a new library. It would be a huge expense for the library to relocate during construction on the current site. Margaret said she likes the green space between City Hall and the library, and would not like to see any of it go away. She likes the view of the water at the Maritime Heritage Center, but is concerned about accessibility. Margaret is concerned and would like to know more about having a “green building.” Seattle Library has had noise issues with their open upper windows. Noise from the street and waterfront echoes up against the hillside. Margaret is also concerned that outside activities would be much cooler and subject to more wind. The court site has views of Sehome Hill and Mt. Baker.

Ken Weber asked what is the next major step in the process.

Tim answered that the Board is evaluating these options, and will come up with the best choice. The Board will take their recommendation to City Council. There is money in the library budget for design work once the decision is made. The next step would be take a bond issue before the voters.

Bill Hinely suggested steps in the near future for the board to lay out the map of each site and see how the functions the community expects the library to fulfill will fit on each site. It would be helpful to get a better idea of which site would fill our needs best. This is a kind of systems thinking. The City of Vancouver planned their library using this process of transformative planning. In understanding urban ecosystems, we need to draw on what other people have done. Bill thinks there should be lots of place spaces for children, indoors and outdoors. He would like to see a building that is also teaching tool with exhibits explaining how it was built. He would also like to see an arboretum on the grounds. People who come to study would see as an essential ecosystem. We could have a botany pond. We need adequate and comfortable space for all the library functions. It is up to citizens to decide they want to make an investment to put together a building and learning center that will last 50 to 100 years. Schools are getting away from teacher lectures and are moving into a project approach with students going out to do research. There will be more and more demands on the library for this kind of thing.

Christine Walsh wondered if there was any way to give an idea how everyone feels to move to a quicker decision. Her personal choices were 1) Bay front, 2) Municipal Court and 3) Current site. Christine is anxious for a decision, so everyone can get behind it and move ahead.

Caroline Rice asked if any Greenways money was spent on development of Maritime Heritage Park. Tim didn't think Greenways money was used, but not positive. Caroline encourages the Board to check on that. Caroline is not in favor of the Maritime Heritage Park or Re-Store site. She said it is not good or smart to take open space inside the city to build, pave or reduce it. She said it would be a mistake to remove any existing park space. Caroline feels that is a foolish place to make more permeable surfaces. Nature wants to drain the moisture down through the park area. We need our ecosystems that interface between the land and water. It would reduce our potential for maintaining our living surroundings. People in high-rise buildings need a place to go for heat relief. The Pacific Northwest has many demands on power. It has been necessary for Caroline to leave her apartment and seek heat relief, and that is usually near the water. Caroline supports the Municipal Court site, and agrees that the current building has space that the city will need for a long time. Caroline supports building a parking garage underneath the library or municipal court site, and suggests charging people and staff to park there. Caroline's second choice would be the current site.

Emily Weiner asked about the noise on the Girard Street side of Municipal Court.

Caroline suggested buffer with flowing water like the park spaces above the freeway in Seattle.

David said Bill had mentioned an arboretum. You could do a planting to help with noise abatement.

Tim said designing with an urban type park as opposed to some of the larger green areas.

Alan added that the Board would look to architects for the best way to cut down noise.

Bill Hinely asked at what point do we look for professionals who might be building on what space they would rather build?

Tim felt there had been enough research to know that they are all buildable sites. Tim said the Board's charge is to choose a site, then move into a design phase.

Bill suggests to use a design contest as Vancouver did.

Tim asked if the Board was ready to move ahead.

Alan said he would like some time to go over some of the things seen today. He would like to give some thought to some of the things he learned today.

The Board decided to have a special meeting on Wednesday, September 6th at 1:00 p.m. Prior to that time the Board should have individually considered each site. The goal is to make sure we continue and further the discussion of a new central library.

Pam suggested the Board should discuss at the next meeting how to approach City Council. The Board would like to invite the City Council for a brief tour and public presentation at the library.

David said the board appreciates those in attendance who took the time to involve themselves in this process. Packets with information on the sites can be made available to those who desire them.

**Special Library Board Meeting – September 6, 2006** will begin at 1:00 p.m.

**Next Regular Library Board Meeting – September 19, 2006** will begin at 2:30 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned** at 4:00 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees