

**Minutes of the James River Valley Library System
Library Building Committee
Wednesday, April 28, 2021**

Building Committee members present via Zoom were Char Freeberg (chair), Jay Nitschke, Gail Martin, Joe Rector, Ashley Strukel, Jill Pfaff (secretary), Kelly Rachel, Tim Nill, Allison Limke, and Megan Hennes. Also present were North Dakota State Librarian Mary Soucie and Deputy State Librarian Cynthia Clairmont-Schmidt.

Char called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

WELCOME

Char welcomed all the library building committee members and thanked everyone for being on the Library Building Committee.

INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members introduced themselves to the rest of the committee members.

REPORT FROM LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Joe reported to the committee that at the last library board meeting, the board voted to request a library building fund be established through the City of Jamestown. The building fund request was submitted to the City of Jamestown and the County Commission. Joe said he attended a City Council meeting last week and they voted to move the request forward. The County will discuss the fund at a future Commission meeting.

OVERVIEW PRESENTATION

Joe gave an overview presentation to the Library Building Committee. Joe shared the background of library expansion efforts, answered the question of why the library needs more space, explained how our library system can expand, and discussed the mission of the Building Committee. He also expressed the need of confidentiality, discussed conflict of interest, and support for decisions of the committee.

THOUGHTS FROM MARY SOUCIE, ND STATE LIBRARIAN

Mary Soucie commended Joe and the library board in creating the building committee. She said that although the library has done a great job at maximizing the space they have, it still is not enough space to have the programming that can be offered to the patrons.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Kelly stated that he has concerns about possibly operating two library facilities in Jamestown. He believes we should focus on one facility.

Gail suggested that the library should be looking at the feasibility of repurposing existing buildings. She mentioned frustration that a particular building wasn't thoroughly considered prior to the expansion vote in 2014. Joe responded that the building was considered by the board, but there was no interest at that time. Gail said an architect should have been sent to evaluate, and that we need more open-mindedness as we look at our options.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Community meetings will be scheduled for information and public input.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting is Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 12:00 pm, via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Char adjourned the meeting at 1:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Pfaff

**Minutes of the James River Valley Library System
Library Building Committee
Wednesday, May 26, 2021**

Building Committee members present via Zoom were Char Freeberg (chair), Jay Nitschke, Gail Martin, Joe Rector, Ashley Strukel, Jill Pfaff (secretary), Kelly Rachel, Tim Nill, Allison Limke, and Megan Hennes.

Char called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

MINUTES

Jay made a motion to approve the April 28 minutes, seconded by Megan. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

REPORT FROM LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Jay reported that at the last library board meeting there was discussion about the future of the library and what is currently happening at the library. Board members were able to voice their opinions. She said that no major decisions were made.

Joe added that the board discussed consolidation options, the needs of the bookmobile, and the progress of the building fund request.

WHAT DO JAMESTOWN AND STUTSMAN COUNTY NEED IN OUR LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE?

- Drive-thru book drop (Allison)
- A building to facilitate increased children's programming and she also suggested the 1000 books before Kindergarten program (Allison)
- A community hub (Ashley)
- A place where people new to the area can come to find information (Ashley)
- A place to celebrate community spirit, the history, and culture but not a museum (Ashley)
- More parking (Ashley)
- More partnering with our educators (Jill)
- The ability to serve all of our community (Jill)
- More programming and more services that we can offer to the community (Jill)
- The ability to let people know what we're offering for services and programming (Ashley)
- A joint venture with another entity and possibly partnering with other groups. Gail said the Arts Center is very interested in some type of joint venture. (Gail)
- Avoid duplication of services (Gail)
- More technology (Kelly)
- More interactive (Kelly)
- Collaborating with other places and avoid duplicating programs (Kelly)
- Tranquil, themed inside and outside spaces to be used for reading, relaxing, reflecting, etc. (Jay)
- Spaces for artwork (Megan)

Kelly stated that tours to other libraries that have been built within the last five years should be conducted. He suggested picking out the best of what those other libraries have to offer and plan from there.

LIBRARY OPTIONS: DISCUSSION OF PROS AND CONS

The committee discussed the pros and cons of the following options:

- One brand new facility
- Expanding ADPL to the north Maranatha building only OR Maranatha + Maple Mall
- Repurpose an existing building in Jamestown and move out of current libraries
- Repurpose an existing building in Jamestown and operate in conjunction with ADPL
- Build a new structure in Jamestown and operate in conjunction with ADPL

This discussion will continue at the next Building Committee meeting. The results will be summarized on a spreadsheet.

Kelly stated that he believes we need one facility if we're going to get community buy-in. Gail agreed with Kelly and suggested the bookmobile could be stored elsewhere. Joe stated that storing the bookmobile elsewhere would negatively impact bookmobile service by making it much more difficult to re-stock. Joe also stated that he doesn't believe combining the two libraries into one building would lead to staff reduction because the current level of staffing would be adapted to offer more programming in the new facility.

TRIPS TO VISIT OTHER LIBRARIES IN NORTH DAKOTA

Joe said that we should to visit other North Dakota libraries. Visits would involve a Building Committee member, a Board member, Jill, and Joe.

FYI – COMMUNITY MEETINGS WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC INPUT

Joe said that public meetings will be scheduled for information and public input. He said this is important before we make a decision, and he is very committed to hearing what our public thinks about the various options.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting is Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 12:00 pm, via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Char adjourned the meeting at 12:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Pfaff

**Minutes of the James River Valley Library System
Library Building Committee
Wednesday, June 23, 2021**

Building Committee members present via Zoom were Char Freeberg (chair), Jay Nitschke (arrived at 12:25 pm), Joe Rector, Jill Pfaff (secretary), Ashley Strukel (arrived at 12:15 pm), Gail Martin, Kelly Rachel, Allison Limke, and Megan Hennes. Absent was Tim Nill.

Char called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

MINUTES

Gail made a motion to approve the May 26 minutes, seconded by Kelly. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

REPORT FROM LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Joe reported at the last library board meeting, a space needs study by JLG Architects was approved. The study will let us know what space we anticipate needing going forward. They also talked again about visiting other libraries in the area, to find out what is cutting edge in other libraries and what will be useful in our area.

SPACE NEEDS STUDY

Joe said that the space needs study will involve the building committee, the Friends, library staff, and library board members. JLG will be looking at what currently works and what doesn't work at our library, where do we see things going from here, asking for our programmatic goals, and what our community will need in the future. This study will inform the cost estimate, the site plan, and the initial design plans. The kick-off meeting will be on July 1st or July 8th and will take about 1 ½ hours.

IDEAS FOR LOCATIONS

Joe reviewed some possible site locations with the building committee.

LIBRARY OPTIONS: DISCUSSION OF PROS AND CONS

The committee continued to discuss the pros and cons of the following options:

- One brand new facility
- Expanding ADPL to the north Maranatha building only OR Maranatha + Maple Mall
- Repurpose an existing building in Jamestown and move out of current libraries
- Repurpose an existing building in Jamestown and operate in conjunction with ADPL
- Build a new structure in Jamestown and operate in conjunction with ADPL

INTEREST IN VISITING OTHER LIBRARIES

If anyone is interested in going along to visit other libraries please contact Joe. Joe will also reach out to committee members as visit plans are made. Jay and Ashley have expressed interest in going along on some of the visits.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AT ADPL

Joe hopes to get a community meeting schedule to the library board at the next board meeting. Joe will also give more information on the community meetings to the committee as he has it. He would like to have at least a few people from the building committee and the library board attend these meetings.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting is Wednesday, July 28, 2021, 12:00 pm, via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Char adjourned the meeting at 12:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Pfaff