

CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
June 9, 2014

The work session was called to order by Mayor Kenneth Bradley at 2:02 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida.

Members present:

Mayor Kenneth Bradley
Commissioner Steven Leary
Commissioner Sarah Sprinkel
Commissioner Tom McMacken
Commissioner Carolyn Cooper

Also present:

City Manager Randy Knight
Deputy City Clerk Michelle Bernstein

Others present:

Shawn Shaffer, Executive Director, Winter Park Public Library
Dr. Bruce Douglas, President, Winter Park Public Library Board of Trustees
Clyde Scoles, Director/Fiscal Officer, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

This meeting was a work session with no public input. Its purpose was to discuss the future of Winter Park's Public library, the visioning of a new library, potential sites/locations and the financing aspects.

Winter Park Public Library

Board of Library Trustees President Bruce Douglas introduced the various Board Member Trustees and Library Task Force Members: Alan Price, John Awsumb, Jan Walker, Daniel Butts and Jeffrey Jontz; and Planning Library Consultant Clyde Scoles.

Winter Park Public Library Executive Director Shawn Shaffer hosted a PowerPoint presentation which included: the vital role of public libraries including educational opportunities, technology, preservation, creative spaces, reading, literacy and current use statistics of the Winter Park Library.

Director/Fiscal Officer, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, Clyde Scoles spoke in general about new library construction and how it relates to lifelong community learning, economic development, vitality and quality of life.

Board Member Jeffrey Jontz explained that it would cost approximately \$5-6 million to renovate the existing library as referenced in the preliminary study that was prepared by The Douglas Company. A brief summary was provided as to what is and is not included in the price proposal.

John Cunningham, ACI Architects, provided several new library building design illustrations and the opportunities/challenges associated with each of the four potential sites: City Hall Civic Core, Civic Center Public Park, Progress Energy Orange Avenue Gateway, or Post Office Central Park.

Mr. Douglas spoke briefly about the financial strategies and that an estimated cost of \$20 million would be needed to construct a new library building.

Library Task Force Member Daniel Butts provided an overview regarding the path to success and what the next steps are. He explained that during the last nine months the Library Board and the Library Task Force has completed the visioning, a high level needs assessment, a retrofit analysis and an alternate site review analysis. Mr. Butts advised that it would be beneficial to have the City's understanding and approval regarding the value of a new library and for the City to participate in a continued joint study over the next 90 days to formulate a plan of action. He mentioned the financial aspects and that it would require some sort of City involvement/participation as well as private donations. The Library Board also believed that there is an opportunity for a referendum to allow the voters the opportunity to speak and choose whether or not they wish to participate in the advancement of a new facility.

Commission discussion ensued regarding site preference, the possible timeframe for a voter referendum, if it would be beneficial to sell City land versus increasing property taxes, the library's visioning process being more important than the financial cost implications, and the need to establish a facility needs assessment throughout the community in an effort to avoid space duplication.

A majority agreed to place the formation of a Library Task Force on the next agenda for discussion and action.

Mayor Bradley suggested appointing the task force board members in July, have each Commissioner appoint a person to the Library Task Force, and for City Manager Randy Knight and Library Director Shawn Shaffer to serve on the board.

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.



Cynthia S. Bonham
City Clerk Cynthia S. Bonham