

Date: August 31, 2009 Meeting On: August 24, 2009

From: Pam Anderson; 292 Copy: Task Force/Core Team

Project: Hamline Midway Library Joint Use Study
292 No. 9024.00

Present: Ole Runquist; Neighbor Jun-Li Wang; HM Coalition
Carrie Pomeroy; Neighbor Samantha Henningson; Ward 4 Aide
Marjorie Abrams; Hancock-Hamline Elem. Ben Grove; Neighbor
Connie Springer; Neighbor Kathy Sundberg; Business Owner
Kit Hadley; Library Director Debbie Willms; Library
Katrina Taylor; Hamline Midway Library Alice Neve; Library
Roger Meyer; Meyer Consulting Pam Anderson; 292 design group

No.	Description	Action By	Date
1.	Quick introductions were made around the table and Roger reviewed the agenda for tonight's meeting.		
2.	<p>The first item of discussion was a follow up by Samantha on restrictions that might be encountered by introducing new uses for the Hamline Midway Library. The information received from Wendy Lane, St. Paul Zoning Administrator, was sent to the consultants in an e-mail and reviewed at this meeting. The information from the e-mail follows:</p> <p><i>Options for zoning and the Hamline Midway Library:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Find a use that is allowed under the single-family zoning district, or consistent with the current use. For example, keeping it a library and selling used books at the library wouldn't be an issue.</i> 2) <i>Rezone, if necessitated by new/proposed use. This automatically goes to the City Council.</i> 3) <i>There is a provision in the zoning code that allows for the re-use of institutional buildings for anything the Planning Commission approves (65.132) --a petition is required with the signatures of 2/3 of the property owners within 100 feet --current parking requirements must be met (or appealed to Board of Zoning Appeals)</i> 4) <i>Determination of similar use (if the uses being put in the facility are close enough to the function of the library currently) --this could be done by the Zoning Administrator issuing a statement clarifying that it is a similar use (61.106). This administrative approach would only be taken if the determination of similar use was supported by the neighborhood and non-controversial. (an example she gave was a completely indoor dog-training facility in a warehouse on Front Street --if it's still a public library and the other uses are accessory/similar, it wouldn't be considered a change in use, so we wouldn't need more parking/a variance</i> <p><i>Another point to consider is if there's a change in use, it may trigger fire code requirements that might not apply with its current use.</i></p>	---	---
3.	The second item on the agenda was discussion of what a streamlined/future-focused library means. Debbie researched this item and discussed ideas from Helene Blowers, the Director of Digital Services with the Columbus Metropolitan Library whose ideas align with much of	---	---

	<p>what has been raised by Ole. We need to keep our eyes open to trends in libraries and other areas. E-books are rising in popularity; e-readers like the Kindle are increasing in popularity; changes in cell phone use and technology are important (60% of the people of the world use cell phones). In Japan, women are publishing serial novels on cell phones. Newspapers and magazines are ceasing to be published; publishing houses are consolidating. In the not-so-distant future, print media will cease to be a primary source of information. The trend is knowledge creation and production in lieu of consumption and use. The three “E’s” are important: Engage – engage users with staff and services; Enrich – enrich the online experience; Empower – allow the community to celebrate themselves, create and re-create.</p> <p>So what does this mean for the Hamline Midway Library?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have a technology center here; download books to a reader for patrons ▪ Have a library where the community can create their own content; create a community “Wikipedia” ▪ Enhance the experience of being at the library – build community ▪ Don’t do things that aren’t necessary <p>Asking people what they want often elicits responses of only what people currently know. An interesting fact is that the Hamline Midway Library was the first St. Paul branch to offer internet access in 1995.</p>		
4.	<p>The discussion then moved to the follow-up research that task force members have done and discussions that they have had on the focus areas discussed at the previous meeting.</p> <p>Movie Theater: Brad was not able to be at the meeting but Kathy discussed Brad’s research. It may take a \$10 -15,000 investment for equipment. The flat floor may work fine for a small venue of 70 – 100 seats. Should not expect a lot of support from Hamline University students for “art house” films. Kathy then discussed some information that she found on a website, swank.com, which distributes movies. They can assist with licensing for a variety of film showings. The next step would be to get further information and develop a rough business plan with costs, revenues, etc. Kathy will also follow up with the Riverview Theater on the movie theater idea. This option could be combined with another of the focus areas.</p>	Kathy	9/14
5.	<p>Resources for Child Caring: Kit talked with the executive director, Barbara Yates. They are not looking for office space but may be looking for space to do training (typically free space). They may be interested in moving their library collection here as it is a more central location. They have always had a part-time librarian; the position is currently vacant. Having this collection may enrich the Hamline Midway Library collection with a focus on children and child caring. Kit will have a follow up meeting to find out more about the size of the collection and space needs (Alice noted from here recollection that the space needed may be about double the size of the stage area of the auditorium)</p>	Kit	9/14
6.	<p>Center for Children’s Literature Kit talked with Mary Rockcastle from Hamline University. There is an MFA program for writing children’s and young adult literature. There seems to be good will for creative ideas on making the library more vital although there was no specific commitments or leadership proposed on the idea of a center for children’s literature. It may be good to follow up with places like Wild Rumpus, the Red Balloon and the Loft for further ideas. We may wish to invite Hancock and other schools to participate in the discussion. The McKnight focus on child literacy may be able to come into play with these ideas also.</p>	Kit	9/14

7.	<p>Center for Green Living Samantha talked with the Neighborhood Energy Connection which is looking for space for its residential quick fix program but the library space will not fit this group's needs. Samantha also talked with someone from the EcoExperience (from the MPCA) at the State Fair. They would not have any interest in permanently placing part of the exhibit in another location. She was also following up with Renewing the Countryside. Pam is working to set up a meeting with the Green Institute which may be able to provide some ideas as well. Jun-Li talked with the Horticultural Society who came to look at both the library and coalition spaces. There are parking issues for this group as they often hold workshops on weekdays and many people drive to these events. We should keep them in mind; they may be able to help with identifying other potential partners. Periodically there may be smaller groups that are looking for space.</p>	Samantha Jun-Li Pam	9/14
8.	<p>Center for Local Foods This idea has not been researched to date but may want to be combined with the Center for Green Living ideas above. Other contacts might include the U of M Extension offices, 4H, etc.</p>	---	---
9.	<p>Center for the Arts Carrie has had some discussions with the founders of the Center for Independent Artists and Compass. If the library becomes shared space it would need someone to manage the space. Arts programs also need consistent scheduling so that people know where and when to find programs. There may be local groups that need rehearsal space and the auditorium could work well for this; some may be willing to pay for this space. Maintenance and cleaning issues would also need to be addressed. Further follow up will be needed with some of these groups. Jun-Li had a discussion with Springboard for the Arts. They work with about 100 artists. There are needs for small office space/shared space and affordable rehearsal space. Springboard is interested in a new model and would like to have further discussion, possibly take a leadership role, lead workshops. Jun-Li also contacted the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council which confirmed a need for small arts spaces; they may be willing to share some contacts. Intermedia Arts and the State Arts Board may be other contacts to follow up with. Pam noted that her contact with McKnight might be a later follow up as they provide grant money which might assist with some start up costs rather than ongoing expenditures.</p> <p>Ole discussed some ideas that he provided on a handout, noting that they are based upon the premise that library efficiency will pay the way for other uses and programs. The idea is to create a center for cultural activities. The examples of music and art activities would not generate revenue but would increase use of the space and create more of a community hub. Ole also provided information on Midway MAP which would organize music and art events and provide a listing of all local arts happenings.</p>	Carrie Ole Jun-Li	
10.	<p>Center for Technology This option did not have follow up. There was discussion that changes in technology for other businesses may create a need for increased technology (for example, BlueCross BlueShield is going to paperless billing which means that some customers need to learn new ways of handling billings and payments electronically). The computer refurbishing business was noted again.</p>	---	---
11.	<p>Friends Bookstore Kit has been in contact with the Friends organization. They are serious about having a bookstore. The location will be important and they will need storage for materials. This can reduce costs and increase revenue; possibly tie in with reductions in the library space on the upper level. We would need to know more about how much space is needed for the</p>	Kit	9/14

	bookstore.		
12.	The Hamline Midway Coalition has been discussing their role in the library changes. They are open to exploring a move into the library space as an occupant and/or taking a role in coordinating use of the space by others.	Jun-Li	9/14
13.	Moving forward, there were a number of comments made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will need to develop a business plan for any ideas moving forward. ▪ Some ideas may have “legs” if given time to develop ▪ Need to maintain the auditorium space for any of these scenarios since this is a community asset ▪ Use technology for community building; this library can experiment with a new model of service to the community ▪ The Hamline Midway Coalition can take a role in looking at trends in the community ▪ The Hamline Midway Library can add value to the system as a whole by experimenting with new ideas; being an incubator ▪ The movie theater idea can be added into the other scenarios ▪ Maintain cross-generational appeal to the community ▪ The library often has requests for leasable technology spaces such as interactive TV spaces. There is a cost for set up and ongoing upgrades and maintenance. 	---	---
14.	There seems to be two main focus areas that will require further discussion and development – The arts and green living. It may be most efficient to set up some group meetings with organizations/individuals to discuss these ideas further. Pam will work with Samantha and Jun-Li to set these up.	Pam	9/14
15.	Since the ideas are still fairly undefined, the next step for 292 design group will be to begin looking at some space reconfigurations that may accommodate a variety of ideas including changes to the library on the upper level and to the other spaces on the lower level. Challenges of the lower level are the changes in floor elevations so the space can not be opened up more. Several options will be presented for review at the next meeting.	Pam	9/14
16.	The next meeting will be on Monday, September 14th at 6:30. The final scheduled meeting is September 28 th .		

If the information contained herein does not meet with your recollection, please contact this office within 3 working days of receipt, so that we may amend our records.