

**Master Plan Community Facilities
September 19, 2016**

Members Present – Elyse Crossman, JR Peter Nelson, Eileen Skowronski, Deb Matteau
Staff- Nancy Merrill, Rick Bergeron, Michael Grace.

Motion to accept the minutes of August 29th and September 12th made by Deb Matteau and seconded by Peter Nelson. Unanimous.

Fire Department

Chief Bergeron gave a summary of his report and a history of the fire station. The department purchased a new ladder truck this past year. Vertical as well as horizontal reach is important for fire and rescue. Some departments are purchasing new elevated platform trucks but this type of vehicle will not fit in the existing station.

Peter Nelson stated that the report indicated that the station was adequate for current needs, but not really adequate – ie, the department was living with it but it had some limitations.

Chief Bergeron stated that the location in the middle of town was great, and projected growth would drive priorities. They have adapted in the use of the building over the years. Replacing the barn behind the station which has expensive foundation problems is a priority for the department. The equipment needs to be with the building and can't be stored elsewhere because the fire department is in the time business when they get a call. He felt that the existing building still has a little capacity, but if city growth hits 20% then there would need to be a major change. Elyse Crossman asked if the department needed to build where would be the best location. Chief Bergeron said that that would still be downtown.

Fiske Free Library

Director Mike Grace gave a summary of his report. When asked about demand for service in the next 5-10 years he stated that it is change and technology. What's being requested is changing and impacting the space dynamics.

Eileen Skowronski asked how the book traffic was now that reference books are no longer needed. Mike Grace said that it was still busy and they have moved circulating books into the reference space. The library is still checking out 6,000+/- books a month.

Peter Nelson asked how many square feet the library needs to achieve their future needs. Mike Grace stated that a few years ago the optimal space for the library was estimated at 13,000-14,000 square feet. They are currently at 8,000 square feet. When asked about the vacant church next door, he said that that had been looked at, as well as a second floor on the existing building or a new location. He stated that there was still a Fiske fund but it was very small.

Eileen Skowronski asked why young children don't seem to know about the public library? She would like to see outreach like a book truck that could go out to the neighborhoods. This would be particularly

useful for the elderly as well as children. Mike Grace said that the schools don't have the resources to bring children over like they used to, and it was also a bus cost. Deb Matteau and Elyse Crossman felt that this sounded like a great PTO project because the kids need to be familiar with the public library.

Mike Grace stated that they would be upgrading the computer system this year, which will allow much more access to people for library cards, renewals, etc.

There was discussion about the importance of the library as a cultural center as well as to community engagement.

The committee requested to see the plans done several decades ago on the planned expansion. Elyse Crossman asked of the three options which would the Director prefer and Mike Grace thought probably a new building with the existing building becoming a history museum for the Historic Society's collection. Elyse also asked about the new interest in genealogy and Mike said this is an area they would like to expand as the library has resources that others don't have. They get inquiries from around the country.

Peter Nelson felt that the carpeting and air conditioning should be done. Bernie Folta said to think of the near term of 5 years and then the needs farther out.

Visitors Center

Director Nancy Merrill gave an update on the property. It is currently meeting its demand and will for some time to come. The major ADA issues have all been addressed over the past 10 years as well as some drainage issues. There are some energy efficiency needs still to be addressed and that will be the biggest facility need over the next 5 years.

Peter Nelson stated that the energy issues should be addressed as they save operations costs.

Guidelines/goals

Peter Nelson asked "How do we serve the greatest need for the greatest number of people"? How to we achieve this?

Nancy Merrill