

VISIONING SESSION

Astoria Library Advisory Board's Advocates Meeting

July 10, 2013, 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Clatsop County Historical Society Heritage Museum

The Astoria Library Advisory Board hosted a visioning session about the Astor public library, its renovation and future services. The visioning session was facilitated by library planning consultants, Ruth Metz and Associates. Invited guests were asked to envision their desired library of the future, particularly the services, activities, and functions of a renovated library. The visioning session included input about service priorities and concluded with several guest questions and answers. The visioning concepts, service priorities input, and the guests' questions and answers are represented below.

- Spark passion for learning--lack/loss of school libraries
- Good children's room
- Teen/early college age = spark their passion
- Connection with college
- Stress service to teens--dedicated space and get their feedback!
- Books! Improve access for all populations. (New book section small; print and digital; quick access; able to borrow from other libraries; cooperative loaning)
- Meeting room space -- hopes for more space -- very needed
- Great books discussions -- library no longer offers. Wants a community dialog on issues in the community and world. The library could be a great source for opening up community dialogue.
- Consider Hispanic community in this, and its needs.
- Make library hip and cool --reflect coolness of new micro breweries, etc.
- Amenities --café...
- Develop services and programs for adults to complement strong children's programming.
- Need adequate resources to achieve. City needs to support--to "step up"--to ensure the library can succeed.
- More user friendly access to ebooks.
 - Include interactivity with school districts.

- Mention of state efforts to include this.
- Mention of Seaside-Astoria shared resource project being planned.
- Mention of "SAS (Seaside Astoria Share)" in 3rd year (ROCC! Grant: Reading Outreach to Clatsop County)
- Have aggressive PR campaign re: services we all offer. (Local libraries, public and academic)
- Discussion on other strategies:
 - Notices at library
 - Chamber of Commerce announcement/newsletter/downtown "Blast"
 - Flyers: "Did you know?..."
- Five years or more from now, what do you hope you will be able to say about the Library?
 - It's welcoming. Staff is welcoming.
 - It's *the* go-to place.
 - Lots of resources.
 - Favorite community gathering place
 - I can find anything I want at library
 - A positive draw to our community
 - A destination for visitors--one of the places to go when they come to Astoria
 - the building must be sustainable--affordable
 - Service program sustainable/affordable
 - Examples:
 - Silverton Library. One of the most exciting places for kids and all. "The place to go."
 - Warrenton Library. Even though building is small, always filled with kids! It's not just the building.
 - Art shows
 - The building in its current condition gets in the way of providing reliable, comfortable service--e.g. a recent musical program at library, wonderful, but was so hot!

- Improve building quality to adequately support services and programs.
- Question: About LEED certification..? Brett Estes: City wants to explore incorporating sustainability without adding cost.
- Question: Scope of this project? Tear-down existing? Brett Estes: Looking at creative re-use of existing building with identification of total needs.
- Keep long term growth in mind --look at long-term needs.
- Look at collaborations, avoiding duplication of effort/redundancy.

SERVICE PRIORITIES

- Comfortable chairs. Kid-sized (not tiny)
- Books that are fresh and new--not old and smelly
- Community room independent from the library. Hours for community use before/after library is open.
- Books. Any/all formats. Better quantity and quality.
- Collaboration space/social interaction space.
 - Business community connection, e.g. opportunities for art galleries to exhibit

Possible revenue stream? Do joint programming with library, possibly make some income that could be shared.
- Updated technology-- microfilm reader-printer that works; contemporary equipment generally
- Expanded, dedicated program/activity space, incl. learning lab that is available at all times
- Reading tutoring/coaching for kids who need help. More staff for support.
- Space for Astoria Friends of Library Assoc. ongoing book sale
- Bookmobile to serve remote residents
- Self checkout to relieve staff workload
- Partnering among all libraries in region--public, school--to make the most of available resources
- Dedicated children's programming space
- Children's RRs in children's area

- Outreach to homebound seniors, especially those who can't/don't know how to use technology
- Multicultural resources
- Hours
- Enclosed teen space with dedicated teen computers
- Laptop plug-in capacity
- Outreach special services to people who can't get in to the library, e.g. backpacks with toys and games for daycare providers.
- Question for Esther, Seaside Library: What would you change?
 - More storage
 - More tutoring spaces, rooms for 2-4
 - Since no security system due to cost, need to make media more visible to prevent theft.
- Quiet space for kids too--for reading, separate from talkative kid's area
- Dedicated quiet area

Questions and Answers

Q: Will security technology be included in Building Plan?

A: Yes; will include so city can consider.

Q: Will this project meeting be summarized and shared with participants?

A: Yes. Will put updates on website.

Q: What about volunteers? Will volunteer program be considered?

A: Yes. Volunteers already help the library and will continue to do so.

Comment: Concerning this current study, I want to see a renovated library come to fruition and see a commitment from city to make it happen.

A: (Brett Estes, Acting City Manager) The city is committed to understanding what it would take to renovate the library. We have to know what would be involved and what it would cost, and that is the purpose of this study.

(Arline Lamear, City Council) The city council has this as one of its goals.

Q: Timeline. At end of project, will we have what we need to go forward?

A: The study will be completed by end of September, 2013. At that time, we will have a cost estimate and an idea of what our fundraising goal would be.

Comment: The various entities that share historic/heritage should collaborate about common responsibility to preserve and make available to community.