



**THE LIBRARY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
1, October, 2012**

**The Library Commission convened in a Special Called Meeting on Monday, October 1, 2012 at the Austin History Center at 810 Guadalupe St. in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Wendy Price Todd called the Board Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Chair Wendy Price Todd, Vice Chair Ben Ornelas, Patricia Dabbert, Sharon Kahn, Peggy Pleasant, and Olga Wise

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Staff in Attendance:** Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries; Toni Lambert, Assistant Director of Libraries; John Gillum, Facilities Process Manager; Heidi Tse, Project Coordinator; Toni Grasso, Administrative Manager; Cynthia Jordan, Project Manager, PWD

**1. Citizen Communication: None**

**2. New Business**

- a. New Central Library 60% Schematic Design Presentation - Presented by The Joint Venture of Lake | Flato Architects and Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott; and a Virtual Tour of the Seaholm District Public Spaces by Project Manager Cynthia Jordan. The presentation has been uploaded to APL's website.

[http://www.austinlibrary.com/downloads/120827\\_Joint%20District%20Presentation%20Rev%205.pdf](http://www.austinlibrary.com/downloads/120827_Joint%20District%20Presentation%20Rev%205.pdf)

Virtual Tour of Seaholm District Public Spaces by Project Manager Cynthia Jordan

**Commission Questions/Comments**

Commission Chair Price Todd

- 1) The Seaholm development faces east. The plan shows a road between Seaholm and the new Library that runs north, Will it be a service lane for Trader Joe's? The road that runs north and south is the extension of West Avenue from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Cesar Chavez. It is not the service entrance for Trader Joe's. Their service will come from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Seaholm Drive, another new street west of the historic Seaholm Power Plant.
- 2) What are the dimensions of parkland to walkways on Shoal Creek?  
The Shoal Creek parkland will be a non-mowing riparian area. Staff did not have the current dimensions, but Ms. Jordan indicated that she will provide this information.

Vice Chair Ornelas

- 1) Are the walkways as large as the Lance Armstrong Bikeway (LAB)?

The LAB is 10 feet wide. Where pedestrians intersect the LAB, it will be 12 feet. Other areas the trail is even wider.

- 2) Will there be areas/plans for festivals?  
Yes, family oriented festivals will be planned.

Commission Member Dabbert

- 1) Does the plan take the Image Austin Comprehensive Plan into account?  
Yes.
- 2) How many public parking spaces will there be?  
The Library will have 200 parking spaces. There will be public parking in other nearby areas such as Seaholm and the Trammel Crow development.

Commission Member Wise

- 1) Is the worst case scenario regarding flooding being integrated into the planning?  
Yes.

Citizen Input/Questions

- 1) Will there be a rail line to the area?  
The rail line is planned to come down 3<sup>rd</sup> Street .
- 2) It looks amazing, but expensive. What type of retail will there be for lower income families?  
The library project is within budget, which is \$120 million.  
. The retail will be economy driven.
- 3) Will there be signage on the LAB indicating that pedestrians have the right-of-way and is there a way to bypass the LAB?  
Staff is working on the proper language for signage. Any bypass created might not be ADA compliant.

New Central Library 60% Schematic Design Presentation by The Joint Venture of Lake | Flato Architects and Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott

Presenters: Steve Raike, Lake|Flato Architects; Jim Chambers and Lynn Peterson, Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott

Commission Questions/Comments

Commission Chair Price Todd

- 1) I had not heard about the dedicated gallery space before. Will the area be flexible? It does not appear to have open egress to the exterior.  
The area will be flexible. It does not have open egress to th exterior due to the grade of the site; there will be two areas of egress from the space.
- 2) Should we be concerned that the new buildings being built will cast shadows so the solar array will not get enough access to the sun?  
Consultants and Austin Energy specializing in the field are working on the design of the array and have determined that this is not a problem.

Vice Chair Ornelas

- 1) Will there be enough elevators for the parking garage?  
There will be two elevators for the garage, which has two levels. There are also open stairwells
- 2) The atrium is very large; will there be an opportunity to hang displays?  
The Art in Public Places piece will be a hanging display in the atrium. Starting on level 2, there maybe display areas.
- 3) Who will be responsible for programming the event space?

The Austin Public Library will program the space.

Commission Member Pleasant

- 1) Great presentation, however it is important to remember that the library and its amenities are for everyone and not just a specific demographic. The new library meets everyone's needs but it seems that is not being parlayed to all citizens.
- 2) How many meeting rooms?  
There is a minimum of 12 meeting rooms, a computer training room and the event forum.
- 3) What is the square footage of teen and children's areas?  
Staff will need to get that information.
- 4) It is important to emphasize that the design reflects clear change from traditional view of libraries.

Commission Member Kahn

- 1) Is the café subject to the City's bidding process?  
Yes, a request for bids will be sent out. The vendor will be responsible for working with APL staff to finish out the space.

Commission Member Wise

- 1) Will the PSI (pounds per square inch) allow the collection to be moved anywhere within the building?  
Yes, the building is designed to hold the collection anywhere.
- 2) There is a main information desk, but how will customers find help elsewhere?  
Each floor will have a call area for questions. Also staff will be mobile and the catalog stations will be on each floor.
- 3) How will the public computers be placed around the building?  
There will be computer banks dispersed throughout the building.

Citizen Input/Questions

- 1) The roof appears flat; are the designers sure it will not leak?  
The roof is a low slope design to move the water into the collection tank
- 2) Will there be more room for the collection?  
The square footage for the collection is significantly larger than currently is available at John Henry Faulk.
- 3) What is being done to ensure customers will be safe inside the facility?  
Staff has met with security consultants and APL Security staff to study camera angles and site lines.
- 4) What is the maximum occupancy capacity?  
The City code allows for 2,000 people.
- 5) Where will the reference collection be located?  
Staff is still fine tuning where the different collections will be.

**Adjourn:** Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m. without objection.