

NORTHPORT-EAST NORTHPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY  
November 16, 1993  
Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in the Community Room of the Northport library on November 16, 1993 to discuss the building program.

The meeting was called to order by Ruth McKay. Also attending were Jennifer Richmond, C. Annette Carr, Michael Glennon, Stuart Goldblatt, Director Stephanie Heineman and Assistant Director Eileen Minogue.

Douglas McNally, library counsel, was also in attendance.

Mr. Glennon thanked the Director for the Building Program report just completed, He stated it was very helpful and useful and tells where we have been and how we got there.

Mr. Glennon then addressed the forty patrons who attended for the building program discussion. He mentioned that the flyer that was sent home with the children from the Ocean Avenue and Norwood Avenue Schools was untrue and inaccurate. The flyer suggested that work to extend library services would adversely affect the school district childrens' services - music, buses, sports etc. He stated that the Board works for children not to hurt them.

He asked that they come and join with the Board. He mentioned he has been in the school district thirty years when many of the schools were being built. He stressed that the Board was for children not against; that it is terrible that we who cherish our children are divided and that we are here to help children not to hurt them.

Mr. Goldblatt thanked the Director for pulling together the Building Program report and that it was a good job.

Mr. Goldblatt spoke to the Board saying even though the Maplewood Road property is available, large enough and obtainable, in other respects it is less than ideal. He continued that Maplewood Road is inadequate for a library building, that some of the criticism is not reasonable he feels, but that one consideration is it must be accepted by the residents in the area. This is certainly not the case.

He continued by saying the library has serious problems now. We looked for five - six years and considered ten - twelve different sites. We came up empty. To continue to look would be a fruitless search. The problem just becomes worse.

Mrs. Carr spoke how disappointed she was. She mentioned the high price of land and how another site would mean dealing with a lot of money. She stated she did not think the library was such a bad neighbor. We have not had any complaints here. She described how hard it was to leave the Main Street building and build the present building. She felt they were short sighted then not to think about future needs. She added perhaps the entrance did not have to be on Maplewood Drive.

Mrs. McKay mentioned the opposition, suggested to the Board that if Mr. Burr did not give the needed piece of Land and if the neighbors felt as they did, then the project could not proceed. She said also that the road was a major obstacle and that it would change the complexion of the neighborhood.

**MOTION**

1. Mr. Goldblatt moved that the Library Trustees:
  - a) end the consideration of the Maplewood Drive DOT property as a site for a new central library building; and express a consensus that the search for a central library site be tabled, and that it focuses, instead, on the two other options open to us for resolving the problems related to the lack of space in our present two buildings:
    1. a capital improvement project, only, to meet mandated and needed work on the existing libraries; and/or
    2. a two building expansion project

Unanimously carried.

2. Mr. Goldblatt suggested that the Board request from George Beatty:
  - a) assessment of how practical and feasible it would be to renovate the Larkfield Road building
  - b) a current estimate of the cost - broken down - of a capital improvement program in each building
  - c) preliminary sketches and plans for expanding and renovating the Northport library and building a new East Northport library on the Gildersleeve property; current est., broken down, of costs for at least two different footage of proposals

The Board discussed Mr. Goldblatt's suggestion.

Mrs. Carr: We have a job to do. She explained the changes telecommunications would make in the library and that two separate set-ups would be very expensive.

The Board asked if there was anything written describing libraries in the future.

Director: There is not alot written. We could modify and share rather that duplicate. Two libraries rather than one can be done - change the focus.

Mr. Glennon: Two buildings are less satisfactory. We must have build-in flexibility with an eye to cost. Must have parking. Across the street is hazardous. Library has so many services - don't know what services will be needed in the future.

Mr. Goldblatt: I understand. I don't disagree.

Mrs. Richmond: Take care of problems facing us now. We are spinning our wheels - be more aggressive - not for next fifty years but ten years.

The Board unanimously approved Mr. Goldblatt's suggestion.

Mrs. Heineman was instructed by the Board to contact Mr. Beatty; Mr. McNally was instructed by the Board to contact the DOT, Mr. Burr and the MTA informing them of the Boards' decision to end the consideration of the Maplewood Drive project.

The Board stated:

there is limited space to expand  
Northport building can be expanded 10,000 to  
17,000 sq. feet  
not spend money unnecessarily  
issue of parking critical  
switch less frontage for parking  
East Northport enlarging not acceptable  
because of lack of parking

The Director suggested asking the Village if the sump adjacent to the Northport library could be decked over for parking.

Mr. Goldblatt: Stated the library has had terrible publicity and that he personally resented being called "an irresponsible bureaucrat." He promised that the Board would make renewed effort to keep the community informed and respond to statements.

A letter will go out to the Community explaining the Boards' actions and answering questions.

Mr. Glennon: The Board would like to go before the PTA's - make a bridge - to share concern of the children.

Spoke about the architect developing plans for possible expansion or a new building in East Northport - population larger in East Northport - meet the needs of the larger population - make clear to do as much for East Northport - growth more likely there - put needs of children first and senior citizens - Northport building not equipped for walkers or wheelchairs

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Bruce Childron: was here when Northport building was built - thinks library is best spent tax dollar

John Coyle: questioned argument regarding love for our children - worked on the Middleville School - many mistakes were made - not practical to project ahead to 2020 or 2050 - not our concern today - serve the best we can with money that is available - these hard times - poor employment - library does not need to supply computers for every child - street needs stop signs - police say when there is a need - too much expense - makes no sense to go way into the next century - decreasing enrollment

Andrew

Schneider: less satisfactory to whom? (relating back to Mr. Glennon's statement about two buildings versus one central building) Were there ever any expansion plans drawn for this (Northport) library? Is the architect who designed this building (Northport) still in practice? Are there any plans here? Can you contact him? (Directed to the Director)

Director: have only seen blueprints - building built on pilings - not aware of any expansion plans - we have an artists' rendering of exterior look Mr. Beatty did - shown to Village Trustees - showed a picture what expanded building might look like - it was never translated into interior space or cost

Chris Hubert: Where is this Gildersleeve property I keep hearing about?

Mrs. McKay

Mr. Goldblatt: explained where property is situated - told about old farm house - 2 1/4 acres - not enough land for a central library - given by Mr. Gildersleeve to build a library

Mrs. Richmond: land can not be sold for five years

Chris Hubert: explain telecommunications - one in each building?

Mrs. Carr explained - separate unit in each building - can not use an extension cord to connect - twice as expensive with two buildings - would attempt to share - explained about magazines becoming obsolete

Chris Hubert: we don't need two - don't need one in each library

Mrs. Carr: in ten years could be in common use - very expensive - if we want to save we should have everything in a common building

Chris Hubert: community will not grow that rapidly - no need for it

Mrs. Carr: The children will be educated to it. They will be comfortable with it and will demand it.

Chris Hubert: yes, those that are interested - will have it in their homes

Mrs. Carr: yes, connect from your home to the library

Andrew

Schneider: explained what his desk top computer set-up can do

Irene Coyle: Where are these mandates coming from? (referring to Mr. Goldblatt's mention of mandates regarding capital improvements)

Mr. Goldblatt: federal and state - the law - we must comply with them -

- Frank Lavarro: against building any new buildings - use school across the street - use for parking - 9 million dollars? no - put children back in Middleville
- Mr. Goldblatt: The Board of Education has not come forth with that.
- Larry Nelson: lives on Maplewood - reviewed what has transpired, the letter sent to homeowners, the Nursery School meeting - reason people so unsure it was not laid out in an orderly fashion - conflicting data - everything supposed to be open but seemed further down the road - much negative publicity
- Denise Renda: corrected the statement regarding decreasing enrollment - said enrollment is increasing - stated Board of Education does not want to give up Middleville - it is not an option
- Rachel Novak: lots of adults use the library - sometimes getting material feels like you are in Grand Central Station - no room - the library should match the house prices - houses are \$300,000. - should be able to have the money for a library
- Steven Harnos: spending 9 million dollars - it's politics - working against each other - too small, I agree - we are addressing the problems - how much money are we talking about? How much to build one central library on Maplewood? The Dix Hills library is beautiful - been there - but made a mistake - parking lot too small - they didn't plan
- Mrs. McKay: The Board of Education has not communicated this information to us (referring to Mrs. Renda's statement)
- Denise Renda: They are hanging onto Middleville.
- Steven Harnos: Close the Larkfield building and build a new one on Pulaski Road. Put up stop sign in front - expand here - deck sump over - need to expand - how much? cost? Board of Education bosses over school property? Pay them rent? no good? not feasible?
- Mr. Goldblatt: Whatever plan is decided on will not be acceptable to everyone. We can't spend one dime without the community's approval. We will try to come up with the most reasonable and one acceptable - will do what has to be done - up to the residents. The community has always been favorable towards the library - over 70% use the library.
- Marie Jones: senior citizen living on Social Security - could not pay more taxes - many others like her
- Mr. Goldblatt moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:31 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Carr and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Glennon