

**King County Library System
Mercer Island Community Library Remodel
Community Feedback Workgroup Report**

Meeting Date/Location

Monday, March 10, 2014 from 6pm-9pm
Mercer Island Community Center, room 102

Meeting Purpose

The meeting between the KCLS and the Mercer Island library committee was convened to get an update on the plans for the library remodel and allow the committee an opportunity to provide feedback to KCLS. This meeting was intended to be a constructive and collaborative dialogue and information exchange. It was meant to help the committee understand the King County Library System's design plans for Mercer Island Library. Also, it permitted the committee to provide meaningful feedback so that KCLS can better reflect community concerns and interests and make adaptations to the remodel plans where possible. No decisions were made at this meeting, but the committee did provide their preferences for the four main topics (color palette and furniture, skylight and lighting, children's section/meeting room/study room layout, and overlay – staff space, Friends, vestibule, book drop).

Meeting Agenda – Monday, March 10, 2014

- Welcome
- Meeting guidelines
- Introductions
- Explanation of feedback gathering process
- Color Palette and Furniture
- Skylight and Lighting
- Children's section/meeting room/study rooms layout
- Overlay – Staff space, Friends, Vestibule, Book drop
- Temporary Library Space Update
- Additional Feedback
- Review and agreement of preferences

Attendees

Committee Members

- Lori Robinson, Friends of the Library
- Bryan Cairns, former Mayor and original library committee member
- Lenore Defliese, Friends of the Library
- Sandi Lindstrom, regular tutor at the library
- Mindy Jeppeson, MI Preschool Association Representative
- Mary Kay Woolston, school age parent
- Madison Nimmo, youth representative
- Sayuj Narayan, youth representative

- Joel Wachs, Friends of the Library
- Debbie Bertlin, City Council
- Dan Grausz, City Council
- Benson Wong, City Council

King County Library System Staff

- Julie Brand
- Greg Smith
- Dri Ralph

City of Mercer Island Staff

- Kirsten Taylor, Assistant City Manager

Moderator

- Nancy Hardwick

Color Palette and Furniture

Preference: Concept A, darker colors

- 11 people voted for Concept A
- 0 people voted for Concept B

Keep in mind:

- More upholstered furniture
- Prefer traditional look; less modern
- Designs are too sharp and angular
- Ottoman will be popular with children
- Do not want trendy furniture to go out of style
- Wood looks strange in the chair table combination (Children's section of Concept A)
- Closed loveseat arm helps contain books
- Concerned children's area chairs would be easy to tip over
- Concerned dark carpet will show stains

Skylight and Lighting

Preference: Option B

- 1 person voted for the existing skylight
- 0 people voted for option A
- 8 people voted for option B
- 3 people voted for option C

Keep in mind:

- Mostly prefer the option with the most natural light
- Do not allow mechanical grills to show
- Raise scrim to increase feeling of space

- KCLS advised that any of the options will produce more light than the current set-up due to the existing scrim being removed.
- Beams in Options B and C will be about the same width but those in Option B will be taller.
- KCLS will determine whether beams can be raised up higher as this would likely make space look larger.

Children's section/Meeting room/Study rooms Layout

Preference: Current layout

- 9 people voted for A, the current layout with the understanding that door would likely have to be moved to NE corner of meeting room and made of glass so that staff and public could see into room. Also would be willing to accept some glass walls in meeting room (possibly between frame braces) to further enhance visibility into meeting room.
- 3 people voted for E, the proposed layout

Keep in mind:

- Concerned about children escaping their area (either out main door or emergency door)
- Kids might go through emergency exit, if unattended
- Children's area visibility important
- 1 entrance/exit to children's area
- Lots of traffic to meeting room that should not go through other parts of library.
- Make sure sink is in meeting room
- Glass wall (off meeting room) leads to visual distractions. Could be addressed with automated blinds.
- Do not care about having a sliding meeting room door
- Glass walls allow visibility and room can be opened longer
- Kids can be watched through the glass wall, which reduces vandalism
- Like having two study rooms
- Library meeting room is used like a meeting room at the community center
- Interested in how heavily the meeting room is used, compared to other libraries
- Maintain size of meeting room to extent possible
- One or two Committee members said they would be interested in seeing layout E if the exterior door could be removed and the safety and containment of the children could be shown.
- KCLS will come back with two recommendations based on the discussion

Overlay – Staff space, Friends, Vestibule, Book drop

Preference: Address the drop-off/storage and display of Friends' materials and make vestibule larger than proposed

Keep in mind:

- Need a place for patrons to drop off items for Friends
- Friends need a book storage space or cabinets
 - Do not need 70 linear feet (current amount) but would like more than the 35 linear feet being proposed
 - Prefer adjustable shelves for Friends

- Need more information on storage space and donation drop off space proposed for Friends
- Smaller vestibule will not be enough space for conversation and will make the library louder. Alternatives mentioned included:
 - Splitting the difference between current and proposed.
 - Diagonal or dog leg wall so that restroom access could be from library rather than vestibule which KCLS believes is important for safety reasons.
- Interested in police input on safety because they do not feel Mercer Island has the same crime as other communities
- Safety of future patrons is important
- Could push front doors out to make more space
- Like the curved shape with “Mercer Island Library” above current staff desk if that can be replicated into new design
- Do not move vestibule if it means that Friends lose space that cannot be replaced elsewhere

Moderator note: Changes being made to staff area are fine. No concerns were raised about the removal of the display cabinet. Committee understood why drive-up book drop was being removed.

Temporary Library Space Update

- Church is too small for a temporary library
- Consider a summer location for programming and collections
- Possible locations:
 - Farmers building
 - John L. Scott building
 - Schools
 - Pre-schools
- KCLS prefers keeping all their items in one place
- Temporary library will include:
 - Preferred reading books
 - Holds
 - Computers
 - Mercer Island wants more computers available
- Consider having collections that are heavily used via browsing and selection (i.e. Children’s collection) available in temporary library space
- Consider having periodicals available at temporary location