



March 2, 2010

Ms. Ginnie Cooper
Chief Librarian
DC Public Library
901 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Cooper,

At its February 25, 2010 monthly membership meeting, the Kalorama Citizens Association (KCA) heard and saw a presentation from DCPL officials Archie Williams and Chris Wright, on plans for renovation of, and an addition to, the Mt. Pleasant library.


Having followed the issue of these plans through the media, list-serves, meetings of ANC 1C, the DC HPRB and US CFA, as well as information on the DCPL web-site, I wanted KCA members to be aware of these plans and their repercussions for the library, programmatically, and architecturally.

After the presentation, questions and answers, and lengthy discussion, KCA members had numerous concerns which are reflected in the resolution below, which was approved at the meeting.

The resolution and member's questions and statements at the meeting reflect KCA's concern as to whether such an addition is necessary, the effect it would have on the appearance of the historic building, and whether a plan of this scope is a good use of taxpayer's money.

In the end, KCA requests that DCPL re-engage with the community over these plans. Many other neighborhood groups have expressed their concerns over this project. I strongly urge you to take steps to begin a new round of community engagement, beginning with a needs assessment.

Sincerely,


Denis James

cc:
Mayor Adrian Fenty
City Administrator Neil Albert
City Council Chairman Vincent Gray
Chairman of Council Committee On Libraries, Parks & Recreation
Harry Thomas, Jr.
Ward One Councilmember Jim Graham

KCA Resolution on DCPL Plans For Addition and Renovation of Mt. Pleasant Library, February 25, 2010

Whereas, the Mt. Pleasant Public Library, located at 3160 Lamont Street, NW is Ward One's only DC Public Library, and

Whereas, residents of Adams Morgan, which is entirely within the boundaries of Ward One, depend on the

Denis James President
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Jane Firor Delegate, Federation Citizens Associations
Joyce Douglas Delegate, Federation of Civic Associations

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Washington, DC 20009



Mt. Pleasant Branch Library for their library needs, and

Whereas, the Mt. Pleasant Library is an historic structure, built in 1925 through funding made available by Andrew Carnegie, the library is part of the Mt. Pleasant Historic District, and contains important murals in the children's section by artist Aurelius Battaglia, and

Whereas, the DC Public Library, is the owner of the building and currently has a plan to renovate the existing structure and build a two story addition in the rear yard, including a very large, 100 foot long, by up to 7' tall entry ramp and

Whereas, the DCPL plans also seem to include the discontinuance of use of the main front entrance, including the existing front entry ramp, and

Whereas, there are concerns over the program planned for the renovated, expanded building and whether the proposed program needs so much additional space, taking into account the current inefficient use of the existing space, and

Whereas, there are budgetary concerns that have been expressed by Ginnie Cooper, DCPL Chief Librarian, in an interview with the Washington Times as to whether there will be adequate funds to properly staff existing DC libraries, particularly when all the planned new and renovated libraries are ready for public use, and

Whereas, DCPL has not given serious consideration to fire safety issues that could be improved in the area of the Mt. Pleasant library by allowing access through their lot,

Now therefore, the Kalorama Citizens Association calls on the DCPL to hold in abeyance the permit application process and re-engage with the community in a truly responsive process to develop a plan that represents the actual needs of Ward One residents, including; consideration of ANC 1C's (Adams Morgan) and ANC 1D's (Mt. Pleasant) independent review of ADA and fire safety issues; and consideration of a satellite location in Adams Morgan.

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