



May 20, 2009

Bryan Weaver, Chair
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
PO Box 21009, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Chairman Weaver,

We are in receipt of your letter dated April 14, 2009. Please find our response on the subsequent pages to this document. We have also provided a written response to a resolution adopted by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C (ANC 1C) on February 4, 2009 and titled, "ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION Resolution on the Renovation and Expansion of the Mount Pleasant Public Library". The DC Public Library (DCPL) is excited about the opportunity and the plans to renovate and expand the Mt Pleasant Neighborhood Library. To date, we have participated in more meetings with residents, library patrons and other concerned parties regarding the renovation and expansion of the Mt Pleasant Neighborhood Library than any other library capitol project. We consider this community engagement as positive and necessary processes that will result in the best possible outcome for our residents and library users.

We thank you for the time and effort you have dedicated to our efforts to renovate and expand the Mt Pleasant Neighborhood Library. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any assistance to you as you continue to serve your constituents.

Sincerely,

Ginnie Cooper
Chief Librarian

CC: attachment

Councilmember Jim Graham
Ward 1
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 113
Washington, DC 20004

Councilmember Harry T. Thomas
Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 107
Washington, DC 20004

Gottlieb Simon
Office on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 8
Washington, DC 20004

Response to Letter Dated: April 14, 2009

The Mt Pleasant Neighborhood Library is located in ward 1 of the District of Columbia and it is the only library located in the ward. However, the population of the city is fairly evenly distributed among the 8 wards, with the population of ward 1 being denser and perhaps more diverse. Consequently, wards with less population density may experience a longer travel time to reach a library. The Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Neighborhood Library located at 7th and Rhode Island Avenue, NW (ward 5), the Cleveland Park Neighborhood Library located at 3310 Connecticut Avenue, NW (ward 3) and the Petworth Neighborhood Library located at 4200 Kansas Avenue, NW (ward 5) are in some instances blocks away from ward 1. These libraries while located in wards other than ward 1 but, provide library services to ward 1 residents and library users.

Question

1. Before deciding to expand and renovate the Mount Pleasant Library (MPL), was any thought/analysis given to renovating the Mount Pleasant Library without an expansion and using additional funds to expand library services in other parts of Ward One?

Response

The Capitol Program that the DC Public Library (DCPL) is currently engaged in is designed to address the existing buildings and facilities that comprise the DC Public Library system. The funding for these improvements was allocated to address these buildings. The DCPL Board of Library Trustees has determined that it would be imprudent to attempt to provide new or expanded library services without a plan to assess and guide such undertaking. Therefore, plans are underway to develop a "Library Service and Facility Plan" to determine what and where library services exist and are needed in the District of Columbia.

The DC Public Library (DCPL) has looked at two (2) general scenarios that address the renovation of the Mt Pleasant Neighborhood Library. The basic premise that guided decisions to renovate and expand the library was the physical condition of the building and its systems, and the building's capacity to house the "Library Building Program" (attached).

Based on these criteria, the 1st scenario addressed renovating the library within its existing walls,

The 2nd scenario addressed renovating and expanding the library to incorporate a 100 seat meeting room as an addition.

Very recently DCPL has begun to explore a rear one story expansion. However, this concept has not been fully evaluated at this time.

DCPL has not planned to expand library services in any other part of ward 1, in the absence of the "Library Service and Facility Plan". The "Library Service and Facility Plan" will focus on the entire city. Any capitol funds not expended to renovate and expand the Mt Pleasant Neighborhood Library will be placed in the Neighborhood Library Fund and be applied to future library projects to be determined by the "Library Service and Facility Plan".

Question

2. Moving forward, what are the possibilities of expanding services to other, under-served parts of the ward?

Response

See Response Above.

Question

3. Back to the MPL project, at what point in the design process for the MPL project will the Board of Library Trustees weigh-in on the design plans?

Response

The DCPL Board of Trustees is involved in and aware of the design plans throughout the entire process. Through our Facilities Committee the actual designs are reviewed and the ongoing progress monitored, the Program Committee maintains oversight of the community engagement process, and the Finance Committee monitors and maintains oversight of the budget and costs. In addition, members of the Board of Library Trustees are usually present or try to make themselves available for community meetings.

Question

4. What is the overall budget for this project? Will current city budget restraints have any impact on this project? Is it possible to get a complete break-down/line-item of the budget?

Response

The Mt Pleasant Neighborhood Library Project is budgeted at \$ 10,400,000. We do not foresee current conditions having any fiscal impact on the construction of the Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Library. There is no "line item breakdown as such for this project. This project is still in the design phase. There is no final design to assign costs too.

Question

5. Once the Board of Trustees has weighed-in on the design plans, what are the next steps/timeline for the project?

Response

Once the design process has been completed the solicitation is advertised to attract builders/contractors interested in performing the work. The timeline will be developed after a contractor has been selected.

Question

6. What sort of avenues will be available for the public/ANC comment/participate as the process moves forward?

Response

As the process moves forward to renovate the library, a web cam will be available and updates from the library to community list serves and to interested library patrons on our distribution list. DCPL representatives are also available.

Question

7. Finally, people in our community have asked for an analysis showing the cost estimates and the amounts of net for four different building scenarios;

1st The renovation of the current Mt Pleasant library building within the existing walls – no expansion.

2nd The renovation of the current library, plus just one floor, terrace level, library expansion.

3rd The renovation library, plus a two-story expansion.

4th The renovation of the current library, plus a three-story expansion as currently being offered.

Response

1st Renovation scenario,...Approximately - \$ \$5,200,000,

2nd Renovation scenario,...this scenario has recently been presented but has not been fully developed to the point of having an official estimate,

3rd Renovation scenario,...this scenario has not been considered to the point of pursuing an official estimate, and

4th Renovation scenario,...Approximately - (the rear-only expansion scheme has only recently been developed and has not yet been thoroughly estimated. We anticipate it will be similar in cost to the previous side expansion scheme, which was approximately \$8,800,000.)

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1C
Resolution on the Renovation and Expansion of the Mount Pleasant Public Library

ANC-1C Meeting February 4, 2009

Now therefore be it resolved that the Adams Morgan Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC1C) receive from the D.C. Public Library Leadership and the Board of Library Trustees timely information on the progress of the renovation and expansion of the Mount Pleasant Public Library; and

Response

The D.C. Public Library (DCPL) will make every effort to provide to the Adams Morgan Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC1C) timely information on the progress of the renovation and the expansion of the Mt Pleasant Neighborhood Library.

Be it further resolved that this timely information include but not be limited to : A transparent and open oversight of the library project; regular substantive consultation with Ward One Neighborhood Commissions including timely specific responses to correspondence from all Ward One Advisory Neighborhood Commissions; regular updates to the D.C. Public Library Website (www.dclibrary.org) of current library design plans, line-item budgets, construction progress, including permit requests and grant thereof; and

Response

DCPL recognizes and welcomes the responsibility and the opportunity to engage ANC 1C in the process to renovate and expand the Mt Pleasant Neighborhood Library. The DC Code addresses the role that Advisory Neighborhood Commissions have related to a number of areas in the District of Columbia. However, "oversight" of the library project is primarily the responsibility of DCPL. As we understand the DC Code as it relates to this matter the ANC where applicable provides "advise" that DCPL is to give "great weight". We will make every effort to reply to all correspondence in timely and substantial manner. It is also our intent to keep our website frequently updated and we will improve in this area. The line item-budgets, construction permits and the granting thereof referred too are items directly related to a later stage in the renovation process.

Be it further resolved that this information further include; a 30-day notice in writing to ANC 1C of anticipated changes or updates in library design plans, associated construction permits, and planned dates of heavy construction.

Response

We will make every effort to inform the community, ANC's and others of any significant changes to changes in the library design. We are planning to contact residents and organizations with general information regarding construction that will mitigate any disruption and minimize the inconvenience to the community.

Be it further resolved that D.C. Public Library commits to having an official representative at the March 4, 2009 regularly scheduled ANC1C meeting.

Response

Chris Wright, Program Manager and Archie Williams, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist did attend the March 4, 2009 regularly scheduled ANC1C meeting

Supplemental Information

DCPL Library Building Program/Fact Sheet

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C

Letter – April 12, 2009

From – Bryan Weaver, Chair

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C

Resolution on the Renovation and Expansion of the Mount Pleasant Public Library

ANC-1C Meeting February 4, 2009

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C

Resolution on the Renovation and Expansion of the Mount Pleasant Public Library

ANC-1C Meeting February 4, 2009

Library Building Program/Fact Sheet

Building:

- A destination, an anchor, a place for learning and meeting that is welcoming and comfortable for the whole community
- 20,000 – 22,000 gross square feet
- Flexible space to accommodate future change
- Sustainable Building with LEED Certification
- ADA Accessible – Exterior & Interior
 - Ramps and Elevators
- Public Entrance
 - Single, highly visible at street level
 - Accessible for everyone – including wheelchairs and strollers.
- Exterior
 - Architecturally pleasing, modern and iconic or an historical renovation
 - Bicycle Racks
 - Parking
 - Signage for easy recognition and good visibility
 - Lighting for security and visibility
 - Landscape to enhance the appearance of the building; easy to maintain

Public Service Areas:

- Browsing, New Books, Sight & Sound Collections
- Adult
- Magazines
- Teens
- Children's
 - With three separate reading areas: Age 0 to 2, Age 2 to 5, Elementary Age
 - Children's Program Room for story time and other activities
- Check out/Book returns inside and outside.
 - Express Check-out, Express Pick-Up of Holds
 - Information points for children and adults
- Vending
 - Potential to purchase drinks and snacks
 - Space may be used for a café cart or other food service
- Community and Library Bulletin Boards and Giveaway Area
- Space to display art

Collection:

- 80,000 books and other library materials on Opening Day for Adults, Teens and Children
 - Books (Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography, Large-Type and Reference), Magazines, CDs (Books & Music), DVDs (Informational and Feature Films)
 - Early Literacy Workstation for Young Children

Seating:

- 200 + Reader Seats, plus the Conference and Meeting Rooms

Technology:

- Public Access Computers
 - 24 for Adults (minimum); 8 for Children (minimum)
- Laptop Computers for training and individual use
- Electronic Resources and Databases
- Wi-Fi Access

Community Meeting Spaces:

- Meeting Room (minimum of 100 people) with Wi-Fi, Audio/Visual equipment, Assisted Listening System; to the public after hours, with adjacent Pre-Function space
- Conference/Quiet Study Rooms (2, each for 12 to 16) with Wi-Fi
- Study Rooms (6, each for 1 or 2 people) with Wi-Fi



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C

ANC1C Commissioners:

Chairperson
Bryan Weaver (1C03)

Vice Chairperson
Mindy Moretti (1C04)

Secretary
Kathie Boettrich (1C08)

Treasurer
J. Michael Logsdon
(1C05)

BID Representative
Nancy Shia (1C06)

Stacey Moye (1C01)

Chris Otten (1C02)

Wilson Reynolds (1C07)

ANC1C

PO Box 21009 NW,
Washington, DC 20009
202-332-2630
www.anc1c.org

Ginnie Cooper
Chief Librarian, DC Public Library
Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library
901 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20001

April 14, 2009

Dear Ms. Cooper,

As you are aware, on February 4, 2009, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C passed a resolution (enclosed) requesting to be included in the design process for the Mount Pleasant Library project — the only library serving Ward One.

Since then, Archie Williams and Chris Wright of DCPL attended to our March 1, 2009 ANC meeting with design images and outreach narrative; DCPL hosted a design meeting on March 26 with approximately 15 new design images, and an update to DCPL'S Web site shows four new library concept images.

The information provided has been extremely helpful, but as ANC1C is a bit late to the library discussion, I would appreciate it if you could bring us up to speed on several elements of the project including the proposed design and the process itself.

- 1) Before deciding to expand and renovate the Mount Pleasant Library (MPL), was any thought/analysis given to renovating the Mount Pleasant Library without an expansion and using additional funds to expand library services in other parts of Ward One?
- 2) Moving forward, what are the possibilities of expanding library services to other, under-served parts of the Ward?
- 3) Back to the MPL project, at what point in the design process for the MPL project will the Board of Library Trustees weigh-in on the design plans?
- 4) What is the overall budget for this project? Will current city budget restraints have any impact on this project? Is it possible to get a complete break-down/line-item of the budget?

- 5) Once the Board of Trustees has weighed-in on the design plans, what are the next steps/timeline for the project?
- 6) What sort of avenues will be available for public/ANC comment/participate as the process moves forward?
- 7) Finally, people in our community have asked for an analysis showing the cost estimates and the amounts of net for four different building scenarios:
 - 1st The renovation of the current Mt Pleasant library building within the existing walls - no expansion.
 - 2nd The renovation of the current library, plus just a one floor, terrace level, library expansion.
 - 3rd The renovation library, plus a two-story expansion.
 - 4th The renovation of the current library, plus a three-story expansion as currently being offered.

I want to thank you for your hard work, time, and energy. I appreciate you bringing ANC1C up to speed on where the Mount Pleasant Library project stands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bryan" being more prominent than the last name "Weaver".

Bryan Weaver, Chair ANC1C

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1C
Resolution on the Renovation and Expansion of the Mount Pleasant Public Library

ANC-1C Meeting February 4, 2009

Now therefore be it resolved that the Adams Morgan Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC1C) receive from the D.C. Public Library Leadership and the Board of Library Trustees timely information on the progress of the renovation and expansion of the Mount Pleasant Public Library; and

Response

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Be it further resolved that this timely information include but not be limited to : A transparent and open oversight of the library project; regular substantive consultation with Ward One Neighborhood Commissions including timely specific responses to correspondence from all Ward One Advisory Neighborhood Commissions; regular updates to the D.C. Public Library Website (www.dclibrary.org) of current library design plans, line-item budgets, construction progress, including permit requests and grant thereof; and

Response

DCPL recognizes and welcomes the responsibility and the opportunity to engage ANC 1C in the process to renovate and expand the Mt Pleasant Neighborhood Library. The DC Code addresses the role that Advisory Neighborhood Commissions have related to a number of areas in the District of Columbia. However, "oversight" of the library project is primarily the responsibility of DCPL. As we understand the DC Code as it relates to this matter the ANC where applicable provides "advise" that DCPL is to give "great weight". We will make every effort to reply to all correspondence in timely and substantial manner. It is also our intent to keep our website frequently updated and we will improve in this area. The line item-budgets, construction permits and the granting thereof referred too are items directly related to a later stage in the renovation process.

Be it further resolved that this information further include; a 30-day notice in writing to ANC 1C of anticipated changes or updates in library design plans, associated construction permits, and planned dates of heavy construction.

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Be it further resolved that D.C. Public Library commits to having an official representative at the March 4, 2009 regularly scheduled ANC1C meeting.

Response

Chris Wright, Program Manager and Archie Williams, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist did attend the March 4, 2009 regularly scheduled ANC1C meeting

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1C RESOLUTION ON THE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE MOUNT PLEASANT PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Whereas the Mount Pleasant Library is the only D.C. Public Library in Ward One, and
- Whereas, the Mount Pleasant Library serves the constituents of ANC1C; and
- Whereas the Mount Pleasant Library is planned to be closed relatively soon for renovations; and
- Whereas the District of Columbia is seeking to expand both physical space and library programming for Ward One residents; and
- Whereas, the cost of this renovation will exceed \$7.5 million taxpayer dollars; and
- Whereas, D.C. Public Libraries has not approached or communicated with ANC1C regarding the plans to renovate and expand the Mount Pleasant Library; and
- Whereas the government of the District of Columbia is required to give great weight to Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Adams Morgan Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC1C) receive from the D.C. Public Library leadership and the Board of Library Trustees timely information on the progress of the renovation and expansion of the Mount Pleasant Public Library; and

Be it further resolved that this timely information include but not be limited to: A transparent and open oversight of the library project; regular substantive consultation with Ward One Neighborhood Commissions including timely and specific responses to correspondence from all Ward One Advisory Neighborhood Commissions; regular updates to the D.C. Public Library Website (www.dclibrary.org) of current library design plans, line-item budgets, construction progress, including permit requests and grant thereof; and

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