

Update on the Activities of the Pleasant Hill Library Task Force



October 6, 2014

Pleasant Hill Library Task Force

Background:

- Current Library built in 1961 on 5-acre parcel
- Home to County Library Administration
- Building is outdated with many physical limitations & structural defects
- Access to technology and computers limited
- More than \$10m in deferred maintenance needs
- Space Constraints – lack of meeting rooms
- Not energy efficient
- Disabled access is limited



Pleasant Hill Library Task Force

➤ City Council established the Task Force at March 10, 2014 meeting

➤ Task Force Goal:

“To explore the need for and feasibility of constructing a new library building serving the residents of Pleasant Hill”

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Home > Community > Library Task Force

Pleasant Hill Library Task Force

The Task Force
In March 2014, the City Council established the Pleasant Hill Library Task to explore the need for and feasibility of constructing a new community library building serving the residents of Pleasant Hill. The Task Force is comprised of eleven members each representing various organizations (see below). The Task Force met for the first time in April 2014 and formed three subcommittees:

- **Needs Assessment & Sites Analysis** - this committee is exploring the various components that are needed/desired in a new community library, as well as looking at several sites in the city where the new facility could be located.
- **Community Outreach** - this committee has been tasked with developing a program to inform and educate residents, businesses and other organizations about the need for a new library, and to engage with the community. A list of FAQ's will be published soon by the committee on this webpage.
- **Funding** - this committee will be looking at various options to fund the construction of a new facility as well as exploring grant and other funding opportunities for feasibility studies, equipment and programs.

Each subcommittee is comprised of members of the Task Force as well as other non-members who can contribute to the work of the committee.

Task Force Composition
The Task Force is comprised of the following bodies (with each appointee or representative in parenthesis):

1. Two members of the City Council (Michael Harris and Jack Weir);
2. One member of the Planning Commission (Bill Bankert);

Pleasant Hill Library Task Force

Task Force Composition:

- ▶ Two members of the City Council (Michael Harris and Jack Weir)
- ▶ One member of the Planning Commission (Bill Bankert)
- ▶ One member of the Education Commission (Jennifer Andersen)
- ▶ One representative of the CC County Library (Jessica Hudson)
- ▶ One representative of the Board of Supervisors (Karen Mitchoff, alternate Lisa Chow);
- ▶ One representative of the MDUSD (Jeff McDaniels)
- ▶ One representative of the Recreation & Park District (Sandy Bonato, alternate Sherry Sterrett)
- ▶ One representative of the PH Library Fund (Jack Prosek)
- ▶ One representative of the Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library (Brian Crowell, alternate Lynn Murphy)
- ▶ City of Pleasant Hill representative to the CCC Library Commission (Katherine Bracken)

Pleasant Hill Library Task Force

- Task Force convened in April 2014
- Elected Councilmember Harris as Chair and Supervisor Karen Mitchoff as Vice-Chair
- Established three sub-committees:
 - Funding
 - Community Outreach
 - Needs Assessment & Sites Analysis
- Task Force Agendas and Meeting Notes posted on City website
- Meetings are open to public

Pleasant Hill Library Task Force

Funding Subcommittee:

- Jessica Hudson (Chair), Jack Weir, Katherine Bracken
- Reviewing funding mechanisms for a new facility
- Looking at similar facilities in other cities to determine potential costs
- Exploring possible grants to assist with planning process

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Community Outreach Subcommittee:

- Brian Crowell (Chair), Jack Weir, Patrick Remer, Lisa Chow, Jennifer Andersen
- Develop FAQ's for Task Force approval
- Determine ways to reach out to the community for input and support
- Reach out to key community leaders and organization

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Needs Assessment & Sites Analysis Subcommittee

- Michael Harris (Chair), Katherine Bracken, Sandy Bonato, Jack Prosek, Jeff McDaniels, Jessica Hudson, Bill Bankert
- Evaluating various sites around the city for new a library facility
- Space analysis to meet the needs of Pleasant Hill residents
- Conducted tour of three libraries in Orinda, Lafayette & Walnut Creek – all relatively new, constructed since 2001

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Sites Analysis – Criteria used for site consideration:

- Proximity to schools
- Geographic location in the city
- Public Transportation
- Proximity to other gathering places e.g. Teen, Senior, Community Centers
- Proximity to Downtown Pleasant Hill
- Adequate parking
- Available land
- Possible partnership with other agencies

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Library Tours in Orinda, Lafayette & Walnut Creek

► Identified Positives/Negatives in these facilities:

- Meeting & Conference Rooms – flexible for multiple purposes
- Computers & Technology throughout the building
- Flexible stacks, furnishings & equipment
- Teen area visible and easily accessible
- Story time area – larger and flexible for other uses
- Information/help desk(s) – highly visible and central
- Friends of Library Bookstores – a valuable asset
- Adequate parking
- Two-story facilities require more staffing

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Space Analysis for a new facility

- ▶ Approximately 25,000 sf facility proposed
- ▶ Main library area (13,500 sf) consisting of:
 - ▶ Adult Collections (6,000 sf)
 - ▶ Circulation/Marketplace (1,500 sf)
 - ▶ Children/Early Learning area (6,000 sf)
- ▶ Teen Area (1,000 – 1,500 sf)
- ▶ Community/Meeting Room (3,000 sf)
- ▶ Public Technology (1,000 sf)
- ▶ Friends of the Library (600 sf)
- ▶ Quiet Reading/Magazines (880 sf)
- ▶ Staff Offices/Workroom/Bookdrop areas (1,600 sf)
- ▶ Public Entry/Restrooms (600 sf)
- ▶ Tutoring/smaller meeting rooms (500-800 sf)

Pleasant Hill Library Task Force

Next Steps

- Additional Sites Analysis
- Community Outreach – development of FAQ's – post to website and promote in Outlook, Focus etc.
- Gather public input via Workshops/Town hall meetings and Online Survey
- Funding – provide details on library funding at other locations over past ten years – include funding for construction and operational/maintenance costs
- Determine lead agency