

**READ**  
**Rosemount (Library) Expansion And Development Group**

**Meeting # 8**

**Final Notes**

Monday, September 14, 2015

7:00 pm

Parkdale Food Centre, 30 Rosemount #2 (Lower Level)

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Present: Richard Van Loon, (Chair), Christine Burke (Mechanicsville CA), Bonnie Campbell (WBCA) , Jim Cragg, Paulette Dozois, Deidre Foucauld, Linda Hoad (HCA and READVice/Chair), Jeanette Rule (Champlain Park CA), Lindsay Setzer, Barbara Woodward, Megan Therrien, Jennifer Birta, Valerie Stam, Emily Addison, Deidre Foucauld

Regrets: Barb Clubb (a/note taker), Andy Billingsley (CHNA), Peggy Berkowitz, Blaine Marchand.

**1. Welcome and introductions Richard Van Loon.**

Chair Van Loon opened the meeting welcoming all especially new attendees. He thanked all for bringing supplies for the Parkdale Food Centre (in lieu of rent).

**2. Request to add another Vice President.**

Chair Van Loon suggested having another vice president that could be representative of younger parents. He suggested Emily Addison. Lindsay supported, Bonnie seconded and the motion carried - Emily Addison is the new Vice President.

**Action:** revise website

**3. Agenda was approved.** Approval of notes of June 8, 2015. The draft of current minutes and final version of all minutes are posted on the READ Google Drive.

**4. Presentation by Sarah Anson-Cartwright from *Bookmark the Core* (New Central Library citizens committee)**

Sarah and Deidre had attended a library board meeting just before the READ meeting. Sarah indicated that the CEO report on Central Libraries was moved up. Following is a synopsis of Sarah's presentation to READ and the ensuing discussion.

There is currently no money, no land/site or partners identified as of yet. The process would be quite complicated with many steps.

*Bookmark the Core* is interested in the location issue, and the fact that the size of the central library should be larger. There should also be an international design competition. There is a need for public consultation/engagement every step of the way however, there has only one public consultation so far on March 31, 2015. At this consultation participants were told right away that the location and design competition were items that would be off the table.

Location is of interest because a central library is not the same as a branch library. Locations that have been mentioned are 550 Wellington or Bayview Yards. These locations are of concern because of the NCC processes that are continuing to move forward in these two areas.

Sarah indicated that Bookmark the Core has met with eight other community associations (and has endorsements from them) as well as councillors. There are many that are also interested in this issue.

Bookmark the Core does not want the issue of location to be in conflict with READ's interests – if the definition of “central” is kept broad it might conflict with catchment area for READ.

Bookmark the Core is interested in learning from READ's efforts and is hopeful the two groups can be mutually helpful in sharing information so that both groups are successful in their efforts.

Sarah indicated that at the meeting with the Library Board that evening, Bookmark the Core focussed their remarks on public consultation and that in the fall the public should have opportunity to provide input into building design concepts and location.

Sarah indicated that at the meeting Councillor Wilkinson asked if Nanos would be hired to do a user survey (Nanos had done one in 2012.) with a mandate to look at potential future users.

However, there is a lack of clarity around another input process. When Bookmark the Core met with the CEO and Chair the Thursday before, they were told that it was likely to be an on-line process with no public event.

At the Library Board meeting, Councillor McKenney made the case that given the good experience of March 31 there should be another public event. Following these comments, the Chair did not invite follow up discussion. When Councillor Wilkinson indicated that they wanted to say something about the selection process and criteria the Chair moved on to another item in the agenda.

Following Sarah's presentation, there was a discussion with READ members and suggestions to help were provided.

It was suggested that when the city lays out the time table start to think about much bigger public process – such as calling its own consultation – Bookmark the Core consider doing more publicity such as a press release, social media or look towards journalists that might be helpful. A “hook” would be to indicate that there would not likely be public engagement and that the group is looking for public support. It was also suggested that Bookmark the Core could meet with other groups interested in urban design such as ORSA (Ottawa Regional Society of Architecture) attend the Writers' Festival, speak to the publisher at Metroland (who is very interested in social issues and may be interested in the campaign). It was also suggested that community associations be put on a targeted list for emails. Those involved in Bookmark the Core could also speak to those involved in the current federal election campaign to see if there is interest on this issue.

In its messaging, Book Mark the Core could consider pointing to other libraries such as the one built in Halifax as an example of what Ottawa should be doing.

Chair Van Loon also mentioned the efforts of the Troy Library to raise funds for their library in a tongue in cheek yet dramatic fashion. These efforts started an alternative conversation about why the library is valued – by suggesting that the books that couldn't be stored in the library be burned. As a result of these unique efforts, the library won the plebiscite (you can see the video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nw3zNNO5gX0>)

Sarah appreciated the suggestions and indicated that their group will need to be careful at this stage as nothing has yet been chosen. The focus is to keep the public involved and to show it warrants attention. The Bookmark the Core group has a core list of 15 but will be looking to expand and reach out.

Sarah also said that she hoped to be able to meet with the Chief of Staff (Serge Arpin) at the City of Ottawa soon in order to set up a meeting with the Mayor. Sarah will also be trying to organize a meeting with provincial Minister Yasir Naqvi and indicated that Councillor Catherine McKenna is on board with what the group is doing.

Chair Van Loon offered that READ group would help out where it could.

## **5. Report from Chair Rick Van Loon**

- *Sesquicentennial Federal Funding grant application for Rosemount*

Chair Van Loon indicated that Rosemount Library has not received a letter indicating that the library renovation project would be receiving money from the sesquicentennial fund.

There may be more announcements after the election.

Linda indicated that she had heard from Councillor Jeff Leiper that not many Ottawa projects were funded.

Bonnie indicated that Kent Kirkpatrick, City Manager, had said the final list of projects won't be made until after upcoming election. The office will keep people informed if any further developments.

- *Meeting with Mayor Jim Watson, June 17*

Mayor Watson indicated to Chair Van Loon that the money to match the Sesquicentennial Federal Funding would have to come from the Ottawa Library Board. This is a higher commitment than we have heard before. However, the Mayor indicated that there will be no additional money from the city's capital budget.

The Mayor indicated that another grant similar to the Sesquicentennial Federal Funding will likely take place after the election.

It could be possible to have a Councillor propose a tax levy to fund a project for the Ward. This was done for the Canterbury community centre in Alta Vista (although not for any other library). But to make it happen, the councillor has to be at the table and council would have to be confident of getting support.

To get a million dollars for Rosemount would likely be five or six dollars a year levy on property tax. Our current Councillor is not enthusiastic about it.

Overall, while the meeting with the Mayor was useful, it was not satisfactory.

Unfortunately all the options relating to Tamarack are gone as planning has proceeded to far. Emily will resend the option relating to constructing above Tamarack parking lot to Chair Van Loon.

- *New Central Library vis-à-vis Rosemount: READ action required? Discussion*

Chair Van Loon had a meeting with OPL CEO Danielle McDonald. They went over the budgeting cycle. Last year was different because of the election year. The 2016 budget will be set in November 2015. The library part of the budget is determined in October. So the capital does not exist for Rosemount for this year (2016). The only money (if it had been received) would have been from the Sesquicentennial Federal Funding.

Next year will be better because the issues with electronic books and pay equity will be done. So strategically it will be better to aim towards the funding for next year. There seems to be a willingness to work on that.

Chair Van Loon also indicated that the \$100,000 for the study is there still and that they are going to do it. This study would be done after staff have scoped out the project for detailed plans. This money is for outside consultants. There is an intention to go forward for 2017/18 budget.

Right now, they are figuring out what they can add in terms of parking for strollers, additional space at the front and in the basement room.

Chair Van Loon also indicated that Ms. McDonald is willing to meet with READ and he is currently trying to arrange a date. At this meeting we can discuss about the scoping being done and will have a chance to discuss more of what we would like to see and process.

Bonnie suggested that community engagement be included and that some of the \$100K be used to do at least one public meeting.

Emily suggested having a pre-meeting before meeting with Ms. McDonald to suggest a focus for discussion – in terms of our objectives and the options we would want in order to achieve those.

Chair Van Loon suggested meeting again on October 13 and then see about a meeting with Ms. McDonald around October 20.

**Action:** coordinate meeting with OPL CEO Danielle McDonald

## 6. Advocacy

Emily suggested doing some public engagement in December. Specifically we would be looking to have people look at the Facebook page, Twitter and the Web site.

READ could ask community association and public groups to send out message talking to people who have visions of the library get people on the list. It was also suggested that a standardized presentation be created to help when meeting with organizations. During these meetings we could both see about getting people on board but also do fact finding

For example “We are working on the library and follow us in one of these three locations to discuss.”

Could also do email blasts asking people who care about the library go to these sites to connect with us now. We could send these emails out to the larger groups. Basically just ask for support for three things – not a big ask – just to follow the issue and support. This will help to connect with people for a longer term relationship on the issue.

Several upcoming events were suggested that READ could take part in such as the Writers’ fest and Taste of Wellington West.

Deidre suggested having a sign put up regarding READ that is larger and looks more professional – put up a sign to say we are. It was suggested that it look similar to the bookmark and be laminated.

**Action:** Deidre agreed to take on the creation of the sign.

Valerie is also interested in coming up with a few interesting ideas to attract attention to Rosemount – such as hanging tea cups or yarn bombing. It could be something different for each season. Then these activities could be used as content for media stories and social media. Paulette suggested something similar to an activity Councillor Leiper organized with Devonshire where kids painted the bottom of their feet and walked on sidewalk. Linda suggested snow men reading books.

**Action:** Chair Van Loon asked the group to make some suggestions as well as provide some dates.

## 7. Communications

- *READ Twitter and FB report:*

Facebook : 95 likes.

Twitter: 137 followers.

Emily and others suggested that more voices and faces be added to Facebook in order to make it more interesting and varied.

- *Media Coverage*

For the fall it is suggested that a couple more articles be targeted to NewsWest and Centretown Buzz. Chair Van Loon is willing to be interviewed again. The hook could be that READ met with Ms. McDonald and that the discussion is continuing.

**Action:** more articles in community newspapers

## **8. Finances**

- *Financial Services support from Parkdale Food Centre*

Linda indicated that no money has been received from community associations just yet. An email has been sent to the Somerset West community Centre to set up an account to manage the funds. He indicated that he needed more information about the officers – including Emily. That list has been set and it is now set up if we do receive money.

Chair Van Loon said it is important to make sure that people realize the money will not go towards the reconstruction itself.

- *DC and Section 37 Funds: follow-up*

Linda indicated that the amounts are so small that they are insignificant. Inside green belt and what library is entitled to is a very small amount.

Deidre suggested looking into pursuing other types of foundations/funding. For example, the Getty foundation gave money to fund for house in Gatineau park. (This funding would have been provided because it was for a heritage building.) Bonnie suggested that research be done using the Canadian Philanthropic Society of Canada database.

**Action:** consider developing a fundraising plan to support READ operating expenses.

## **9. Other**

- *Tours of OPL Branches (new & recently renovated)*

Linda and Deidre went to them and received a tour from the librarian. They went to Beaverbook, Hazeldean, Emerald Plaza, Centennial

Deidre also visited Sunnyside and Alta Vista.

**Next meeting October 26.**

**Location Plant Recreation Centre, Booth Room.**

**Approved**

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**Richard Van Loon**