



BELMONT LIBRARY PROJECT

A NEW LIBRARY FOR BELMONT

JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Community members gathered for the 5th Library Project Public Forum on Sunday May 19th. Attendees reviewed conceptual building designs from Oudens Ello Architecture with detailed exterior and interior building views and landscape designs, including exciting proposals for incorporating Wellington Brook. They also received project updates, information on proposed new programmatic spaces, including a digital media lab, a dedicated children's programming room, quiet study rooms, community meeting spaces with after-hours capabilities, and much more.

The conceptual designs for the library were derived from the 2016 Belmont Public Library Feasibility Study, input from the community, and the Library Building Committee's work over the last 18 months. Guiding principles for the design include the use of the library as a community center, creation of spaces that are accessible and open to all, flexible spaces that serve multiple purposes, an abundance of natural light, sustainability, a building site that's integrated with the landscape, and accomplishing all of this with maximum cost efficiency.

Community members gave extensive feedback and provided suggestions for future design iterations. Members of the Library Building Committee (LBC), the Owners Project Manager (OPM), architectural team, and library staff were on hand to answer questions, and will incorporate feedback into the design. The Public Forum was filmed by the Belmont Media Center and is available on demand at www.belmontmedia.org.

Please visit the Library Building Committee [website](#) to view the most recent conceptual designs and other presentation materials, and to provide feedback via the LBC design survey. We look forward to receiving your comments on what you value in a new library!

BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Sustainability and the results of the Zero Net Energy (ZNE) Study Report conducted by The Green Engineer (a sustainable design consulting firm that is part of the design team) were the primary topics at the May 21st LBC meeting. In addition to the Library Building Committee, the room was filled with Town Meeting members, Belmont residents, and representatives from the Belmont Energy Committee and Sustainable Belmont.

The draft ZNE report detailed several options for optimizing energy performance and achieving ZNE for the new Belmont Public Library building. The report emphasized the first step in achieving ZNE – “designing a highly efficient building that has a low-site energy consumption and uses no fossil fuels.” Options for the new building included a combination of solar panels on the building’s roof, an all-electric building option, and VRF (Variable Refrigerant Flow Heat Pumps).

The draft ZNE report will be posted to the LBC website this month, and will be updated as the conceptual building designs are finalized and as building life cycle costing analysis is further examined.

Clair Colburn, chair of the LBC, provided an update to Town Meeting on June 5th. As part of this update Ms. Colburn announced that Madeline Fraser Cook has been appointed to the LBC to enhance the Committee’s sustainability expertise. Ms. Fraser Cook’s specialties include sustainable community development working with federal and state policy regarding sustainability, green neighborhood development, and program development and management. She is also a Belmont Housing Trust board member. We are excited to welcome Ms. Fraser Cook’s talents and perspective to the LBC!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

At the LBC Town Meeting update on June 5th, Mark Paolillo spoke briefly and announced that he had accepted an invitation from the Belmont Library Foundation to serve as Co-Chair of the upcoming Library Building Capital Campaign. In his remarks, Mr. Paolillo – who served for nine years as a member of Belmont’s Select Board – mentioned that the Library Foundation has been quietly laying the groundwork for a Capital Campaign to raise private funds for our new library building, and that more information would be forthcoming in the Fall as the Schematic Design phase comes to a conclusion. The Library Foundation is working closely with Mr. Paolillo to finalize the structure and leadership of the Capital Campaign.

LIBRARY PROJECT IN THE NEWS

Clair Colburn was interviewed by the Belmont Media Center for a special segment of *Belmont Journal* that aired on May 31st and is available on demand at <https://tinyurl.com/y6gawe3o>. Tune in to hear Ms. Colburn discuss why Belmont needs a new library, the role of the library as a community resource, the positive impact a new building will have on the types of programming available at the Belmont Public Library, and the myriad of opportunities a new building will provide to library patrons and the broader Belmont community.

KEY UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday, June 18

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Belmont Public Library – Flett Room
Library Building Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 27

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM – Belmont Public Library – Flett Room
Board of Library Trustees Meeting

QUESTIONS?

We welcome your ideas and comments through the LBC [website](#) or through email to info@belmontlibraryfoundation.com.