

Good morning

Please find here my written response to the suggestions submitted by Bart Dawson, as discussed at your October meeting.

First, I would like to remind you of a few overarching principles that I have mentioned in past meetings that I've used to help guide us through this process:

- Get as much input from as many residents as we can, and identify areas of common agreement where possible;
- Recognize that universal agreement is not a realistic goal, but listen and respect different opinions even when we will move in different directions;
- Respect the overall feeling to maintain the existing general look and feel of the Mercer island Library;
- Do no harm....where there is not general agreement, make few or no changes unless change is necessary for the library to operate effectively;
- Direct the project back towards its original stated goals which were approved by the voters.

We discussed these points at various times in our meetings early on, but I should've brought them up again in October. In particular, I am driven by that final point. KCLS presented a ballot initiative to approve a fairly clear plan of action for the Mercer Island Library along with other KCLS libraries. This plan was approved by the voters based on their understanding of the work we intended to complete.

Yes, projects can change. We learn things once we are in the process, and the world around us changes. Thus, there are always acceptable reasons to change a project plan if circumstances have indeed changed. However, to change a voter approved plan after the fact simply because we decide we want to do something different is not appropriate. This is dishonest to the voters, and diminishes our credibility in the community.

My responses to Bart's suggestions are in red following each one.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary A. Wasdin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "W".

Gary A. Wasdin

November 2, 2015

Restore the ceiling above the north reading area.

It is obvious that the large white florescent down lights, installed throughout the library, were removed to make the handsome cedar ceiling more visible. The old lights were replaced by up and down lights, mounted on the short walls under the edge of the ceiling, and long up lights suspended from the ceiling on thin cables. But, the holes in the ceiling, associated with the old down lights, were covered with round plastic disks that do match the cedar wood ceiling. Please make the ceiling "whole" again.

**Yes, we will look for a way to improve the hole covers that were used in this area.**

Improve the newer up and down lights in the north reading area.

The short length of white metal fixtures look out of place next to the painted wall. Please either paint the outside of the fixtures the same color as the walls, or, even better, hide the white fixture behind painted wall board similar to the vertical edges of the light shelves in the large main space.

**I do not have a definite answer on this one, but we will absolutely look into it and see if we can come up with a solution.**

Expose the cedar ceiling in the large meeting room.

Add light shelves just under the edge of the ceiling in the large meeting room

Use the light shelves to hide up lights and down lights. The light shelves would emphasize the square shape of the ceiling and help the storage closets appear to recede.

**I have given this additional thought since our meeting as I know that several people are unhappy with the lighting in this area. Changing these lights does not meet any of the above principles that I mentioned. They are an inherent part of the design of the ceiling, as they are with the main ceiling in the library proper. I am not willing to tamper with that design at this time. We will try to use a better lightbulb that reduces the glare, and will work to make sure that the new window and new recessed lighting in this room provide greater flexibility in how the room can be lit overall. These lights will remain as they are.**

How many chairs will be available in the large meeting room?

**We will order 65 chairs. The maximum capacity for the room is 64, but this will give us some extra chairs to have on hand.**

Expand the study carrels next to the east window in the north wall.

The carrels seem to be well used. There seems to be ample space to add two or more carrels.

**These carrels are not produced any longer. For now we will maintain the existing number.**

All new unpainted wood should be a warm hue matching the existing wood facing on the ends of the book stacks.

Wood with red tones, like cherry, is required, compared to other wood with dark hues.

**As discussed at our meeting, we have made this change and will use black-top tables that match the existing tables.**

Restore the cedar ceiling next the main entry door.

Approximately 36 inches of cedar paneling were removed by KCLS so the pieces could be included on color sample boards to assist in determining interior colors.

**Yes, we will replace these cedar panels.**

Will the existing benches by the front door be retained or replaced?

**These benches will be retained.**

Please explain KCLS intentions relative to the outside book drops.

There are rumors about the library staff having more difficulty in servicing the car book drop compared to using the original conveyor belt (which was removed a year ago). Will some kind of new conveyor belt be installed? Also, we were informed that the book drop doors and frames were scheduled for replacement. This latter change is not indicated on the KCLS plans.

**We are making no changes to the existing outside bookdrops. The addition of an AMH bookdrop will drastically alter the flow of materials into the library as many people will want to use the new bookdrop in order to get a receipt.**

Please compare the future availability and use of general use (non-catalog) computers to the present usage.

On a recent Saturday afternoon all computer chairs were occupied. Signs stated that computer use was limited to 15 or 30 minutes. Does the library have enough computers?

**Overall, computer use is not heavy. There are busy times off and on, but usage reports show that these times are very limited. We will run monthly reports to present to you at the next board meeting to share that data. Thus we are confident with the number of computers we have in the library. During peak times, we will seek better ways to make sure people know we have laptops available.**

Create a shelf in the reference section to hold Mercer Island related books, or documents prepared for the public by the City of Mercer Island.

Make information about Mercer Island less hidden and more visible. Assume that the City of Mercer Island will provide city documents, just as Sound Transit has provided documents not in the library. (Not all residents can find city documents on a computer. Some residents would prefer to read paper copies in the library, rather than viewing them on a screen, or would want to avoid the cost of printing documents themselves.) Why wait?

**We won't add a new shelf as part of this project, but we can look into finding a way to make this happen within our existing reference section.**

Don't wait to replace the tables and chairs in the children's area.

Some chairs have been removed because they were damaged. Rather than waiting about 12 months for more chairs, please proceed with replacing them now. Please assume at least 3 chairs per table.

Don't wait to replace the tables in the large meeting room.

The existing tables are very heavy and difficult to move, setup, and store. Rather than waiting about 12 months for different tables, please proceed with replacing them now.

**I'm not sure why anyone is thinking it will be 12 months, as the renovation is expected to happen in the Spring. Lead time on furniture orders is generally a minimum of 12 weeks. Given the holidays, I would expect that all will arrive close to the time of the remodel. Thus, all of the work will be done together and we will open with all of the beautiful new furniture in place.**

Don't wait to institute new procedures or guidelines which encourage use of the meeting room by library patrons.

In the past KCLS has talked about the desirability of patrons using the space in the large meeting room when meetings are not scheduled. Rather than waiting 12 months to implement new rules, please proceed with implementing new rules in the next month.

**This has already been implemented.**