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Meeting Minutes: 4/24/19 Community Meeting

Date: April 24, 2019
Project: Rice Public Library Renovation and Expansion
Location: Kittery, Maine
To: Kendra Amaral + Library Planning Committee
Prepared by: Scott Simons Scott Simons Architects
Ryan Kanteres Scott Simons Architects
Seth Wilschutz Scott Simons Architects
Chris Berry Scott Simons Architects

Meeting title: 4/24/19 Community Meeting

1. Introduction

- A. Kendra Amaral provided a brief overview of the project to-date.

2. SSA Presentation

- A. Ryan Kanteres started the presentation with a general timeline of the library's history, an overview of assessments performed by the design team, and a recap of programming interviews with library staff and community groups.
- B. Seth Wilschutz presented images of modern library spaces to elicit feedback on the types of spaces valuable for the community. This was followed by precedent images of library additions to discuss how the design team plans to respect the 1888 National Historic Register Rice Public Library.
- C. Seth Wilschutz presented some example sustainable priorities to elicit feedback on the sustainable practices most important to the community.
- D. Ryan Kanteres provided a brief overview of programming effort, noting that the addition must be 10,000-11,000sf to accommodate the library's program.
- E. Ryan Kanteres presented two schemes – one scheme with an addition located north of the existing building, and one scheme with the addition located to the south.
 - 1. North Scheme
 - a. The North Scheme has three levels.
 - b. The lower level has a second entry which aligns with a proposed 14-space parking lot on the south side of the site. The lower level contains a dividable community room, maker space, toilets, and support spaces.
 - c. The first floor is the main entry floor served by a proposed 14-space parking lot on the north side of the site. This level contains popular library collection, main collection, e-Commons (computer space), reference desk, meeting rooms, and the main circulation desk and offices.
 - d. The second floor contains the children's and young adult spaces, including children's storytime. The second floor aligns with the second floor of the existing building which would house a renovated reading room.

2. South Scheme

- a. The South Scheme has three levels, with most of the parking on the north side of the site (approx. 21 spaces) and a smaller lot (8 spaces) on the south side.
- b. The lower level has a second entry from Traip Ave. The lower level contains children's and young adult spaces.
- c. The first floor is the main entry floor containing the community room, maker space, main circulation desk and offices, and popular library collection and periodicals.
- d. The second floor contains the general collection.

F. Community Questions

1. The design team took a few questions from the community.
2. Audience member Pat Strand asked about expanding below grade into the dirt lot, particularly for below-ground parking. Ryan Kanteres responded that the dirt lot is currently 14 feet below the main entry level and that structured parking is not within the library's budget.
3. Audience member David Lincoln wanted confirmation that the architects and Building Committee truly heard the needs of all stakeholder groups they interviewed and responded accordingly. Ryan Kanteres noted that the design team has worked hard to listen to members of the library staff and community and respond accordingly.
4. Audience member Christina Cote questioned the sun path relative to the proposed additions. Ryan Kanteres reviewed the sun path during winter and summer.
5. An audience member asked if there is a preferred design from the deciding parties right now. Ryan Kanteres noted that both designs are being pushed forward and refined with equal consideration.

3. Breakout Sessions

- A. Community members, library staff, Building Committee members, and members of the design team split into three breakout sessions to discuss the plans further.
- B. Breakout Session 1 included Scott Simons of Scott Simons Architects and Sarah Hourihane of Lassel Architects.
- C. Breakout Session 2 included Seth Wilschutz of Scott Simons Architects and Mike Lassel of Lassel Architects.
- D. Breakout Session 3 included Ryan Kanteres of Scott Simons Architects and Michal Kaleta of Lassel Architects.

4. Summary of Breakout Group Sessions

- A. Following break-out groups, the highlights of each group were summarized for everyone (refer to break-out session notes included herein).

5. Further Community Outreach

- A. The design team and Building Committee will be represented at the Kittery Block Party.
- B. An additional community feedback session will be scheduled.

Feedback Summary

GENERAL COMMENTS – Please share how this project is important to you.

- Spaces for programs for all ages
- Reading areas
- Areas for light reading / socialization
- Computer and tech support spaces
- Concerns about excessive overlap with community center (conference rooms, meeting hall)
- Public/civic meeting space in heart of Kittery Foreside
- Enhance community connections
- Addition must complement existing building

THE MODERN LIBRARY – Are there particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

- Flexible, multi-use dividable meeting rooms
- Exhibition space
- Children's area – separate
- Socialization / Café space
- Drive-through book drop
- Charging stations
- Maker space
- Reading areas
- Accessibility
- Cross-generational programming
- Coatroom and lockers
- Study rooms
- STEM support spaces
- Small business services
- Air and environmental quality
- Video room

HISTORIC BUILDINGS – Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant.

- Maintain historic beauty
- Views of historic building
- Historic woodwork, staircase and details on interior
- Brick detailing on exterior
- Respecting Naval history and views
- Arabella Rice Room
- Tower

BUILDING PERFORMANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY – Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

- Solar panels
- Energy efficiency
- Daylighting
- Carbon footprint
- Environmentally friendly materials
- Living building challenge
- Sustainable Sites initiative
- Integrated storm water
- Natural ventilation
- Bike racks
- Rooftop garden

SCHEME PREFERENCES – Summary of preferences, as voiced in feedback forms and breakout sessions.

NORTH SCHEME – Six people stated preference for.

- Opportunity for parking garage on south side of site with garden on top
- Entrances closer to parking – better accessibility
- Children's area on 2nd floor preferred
- Better showcases historic building
- Larger circulation desk

SOUTH SCHEME – Three people stated preference for.

- Layout is better
- Needs better parking and access

MERITS TO BOTH SCHEMES – Three people noted positive aspects to both schemes.

Breakout Session Notes

Classroom #1 Breakout Session

Scott Simons & Sarah Hourihane

To start the conversation, Scott asked the group to go around the table to introduce themselves and to say what they like or don't like about the existing building, and what goals they have for the addition.

- Doug Green
 - Loves the existing library
 - Kid spaces should be enjoyable and fun
- Erin Traynor
 - It will be nice to have all the collections together
- Tim Brochu (committee member)
 - Connection to foreshore (anchor)
 - Part of fabric
 - Creating usable/desirable public spaces; both indoor and outdoor
- Linda Cheatham (sp?)
 - Marriage of old and new
 - Respectful of existing Rice building
 - Anchor to foreshore
 - Worry that spaces for people to "hang out" will make it feel too crowded
- George Dow (committee member)
 - Creating a structure that's inviting
 - Drawing the community in
 - Calling people to come into the structure
- Suzanne-
 - Wants books only & e-learning. Feels a library should just be about books.
 - Energy efficiency is important
 - Worried about parking in the Foreshore
 - Feels strongly that the addition should not include conference rooms or meeting spaces
 - No cafeteria

- Christina Cote-
 - Easy access in/out
 - Safe book drop off area
 - Safety
 - Keeping kids corralled.
 - Favored the children's area on the 3rd floor.
 - Likes the idea of being inside the addition and seeing the existing
 - Sufficient circulation desk space
 - Prefers underground parking
 - Concerned about longevity
 - Plans for parking garage
 - Second addition
 - Room to grow
- Gail Turner
 - Parking concerns
 - Doesn't want the addition to feel separate or different from the existing building
 - Addition should be integrated into existing building
 - Visually doesn't want to be able to tell new from old
- Craig Wilson
 - Staff are wonderful!
 - Library should be a great environment to work in for staff
 - He isn't concerned about traffic
 - Wants a welcoming space that engages people
 - Suggested space for a radio station, video production, cross cultural pieces
 - Wants to see preservation of the existing building- gave the entry at Traip Academy as an example
 - Wants to see the circulation desk directly in front of the entry for maximum visibility/greeting
 - Would love to see a working fireplace: Fire is the light and warmth of the community. Everyone could participate by bringing a few logs of wood each time they return a book.
- Rose Eppard
 - Concerned the addition is not enough space
 - Warns to be careful not to replicate resources in Kittery
 - Feels the community center already provides space for meetings and events
 - Loves the idea of makerspace and areas for STEM, robotics, 3d printer
- Barbara McGaughey (?) new to town
 - Blending new and old together is important
 - Mentioned the Eliot library and the rock wall in the building

- Terry Locthead
 - Thinks the staff are the best
 - Enjoys ordering books from home
 - Existing is beautiful and awkward
 - Meeting space may be unnecessary
 - Devoted teen space to eat, drink and study
 - Concerned about Y/A next to story hour
- Tom Ryan
 - Loves the architecture of the library
 - Loves the vibe, woodwork, and wants it to be maintained
 - Understands that movies are best kept at library for staffing reasons
 - Questioned if library would rent space out
- Lee Perkins & Greta Evans
 - Explained to the group that the library currently hosts several events are held at the library weekly. These include story time, poetry readings, lectures, book signings, movies, etc. People also use small meeting rooms for practice tests, interviews, studying, and are used occasionally by the Shipyard. Having meeting space at the library is essential so that staff members can set up and run events without having to the library. Having to take time to leave the library to set up at the community center would require them to hire another staff person to cover at the library. It was also mentioned that the community of Kittery is very active and it can be difficult to schedule spaces at the Community Center with other competing groups and activities.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

- North Scheme
 - Makes the addition look less obvious and allows the existing building to shine as a jewel
 - It marries the existing and new better
 - Integrates with existing nicely- allowing for outside of existing building to be exposed on the interior for people to experience
 - More potential for energy efficiency
 - View of existing library greater from Foreside
 - Opportunities for a play structure/children's garden at lower level
 - Large and open
 - Circulation desk
 - Children's area on 3rd floor
- South Scheme
 - Preferred for parking- impacts residents on Traip ave less

- General comments
 - E-commons space is important- doesn't have to all be in one place
 - Entry at grade for general spaces- easier access for seniors
 - Children's outdoor space doesn't need to have direct connection as long as there was a designated space for outdoor children's activities. Groups would plan to meet in that space instead of in the children's area.
 - Logistics of strollers, diaper bags, etc. should be accounted for. If children's is on the third floor, maybe there is a stroller storage area on both the third floor and first floor.
 - Windows to allow visual of existing building through the new building

Classroom #2 Breakout Session

Seth Wilschutz & Mike Lassel

The group also included board member Dave Harris, Building Committee member Jennifer Brewer, and Rice Library staff member Katie Lyons.

Community members included Patty Kosowicz, Mike & Laura Campion, Diane Harvey & John Heinl, David Lincoln, Sally Mackie, Gail & Richard Leonard, Gail Barrington, Jacqueline Dow, and 4-5 others.

To start the conversation, Seth Wilschutz provided a brief recap of the North and South Schemes.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

- The group discussion began with a question clarifying the need for “community room space” since Kittery already has the KCC for event space.
 - It was generally agreed that there is a need for flexible space. Not only are there author events that attract large crowds, but there are also smaller events such as book clubs, computer classes, and film screenings that need this space. These types of events are unique to the library.
 - Seth Wilschutz described the “Best & Highest Use” design philosophy: What is the best space that can accommodate the highest number of people for the most events? A community space/makerspace that can be divided into smaller areas is best.
- Sally Mackie asked about number of stairs; it was communicated that the main stairs in the existing building do not meet current building codes and the plans allow for the code-required means of egress.
- Energy efficiency was a big topic of discussion and all members voiced support for sustainable measures.
- Seth Wilschutz and Mike Lassel explained how the main floor of the current Rice building may be retrofitted to become an e-commons.
- Questions about windows: Number of windows in the new addition, their size, where they would be located.
 - Seth noted that no existing windows will be blocked, though some will have interior views into the new addition.
 - It was also discussed that large amounts of glass will affect mechanical costs of maintaining the building.

- A group member asked how the architects took the physical collection and its growth into consideration.
 - When the SSA calculated shelving space, a 20% growth factor was used in the calculation, while also noting that routine deaccessioning is performed in all areas by staff.
 - There was also discussion on the specific areas of the collection that staff are looking to grow in the future, such as audio books and large print material.
- Group question about staffing and operational cost.
 - Seth Wilschutz and Mike Lassel discussed the benefits of consolidating operations of two buildings into one. Katie Lyons pointed out that the larger event space/meeting areas were a huge part of the library expansion, but they did not have to be continuously staffed.
- Desires for new library:
 - Art exhibition space, eg. Portsmouth library's exhibition space in their atrium.
 - Jennifer Brewer stated that exhibition space is a factor in the Building Committee design meetings, but that it may be distributed space.
 - Welcoming entrance.
 - The group almost unanimously agreed the library should be a place that welcomes socialization. A social space for senior citizens was especially important.
 - Diane Harvey expressed she did not feel the need for a dedicated café space, with all of the coffee shop/restaurant options already in the neighborhood. A space like that in the library may take away business from these places.
 - However, the group agreed that a welcoming public space to bring a coffee or snack in the library building was important.
 - Laura Campion brought up teen space, stating that teens will want a space that they can call their own. It was generally agreed that some separation of teens from younger children is required to make the teen space viable.
- The general voiced opinion in the breakout session was in-favor of a modern addition, but at least one person voiced an alternate opinion.
- Mike Campion introduced himself as a homeowner on Traip Ave. He brought up his concerns about the increased traffic and congestion on the street, especially since it's one-way, narrow, and home to children.
- An area of concern, noted by David Lincoln and echoed by others, was the visual impact on the Foreside. They did not want an addition that would obstruct the view of this 'crown jewel', and pondered how best to have this modern addition without losing sight of the prominence of the existing building. Diane Harvey thought the North scheme did the best job incorporating the addition into the existing library building: "hugging" it rather than just "tacking on."

- Green space was generally noted as important.
 - The group discussed which plan would best preserve the public green space, or allow additional trees or gardens to be planted.
 - Many were concerned by the plans expanding into the existing garden.
- Quality of insulation in the new addition was discussed as an important sustainability goal.
- Diane Harvey asked about foot traffic/flow in the interior. This generated a lot of discussion noting that the current plans necessitate half-levels going from the old building to the addition, but it was noted there will be an elevator for accessibility.

Classroom #3 Breakout Session

Ryan Kanteres & Michal Kaleta

GROUP DISCUSSION:

- There was significant discussion creating indoor-outdoor connections in the new addition.
 - This could possibly include a landmark element as part of the landscape design.
 - One person noted there should be an information station as part of the landscape design.
- Effective use of daylighting was discussed.
- One person noted that he disliked wrapping the existing building with the addition (north scheme).
- There was some support for a business center.
- It was agreed that bike racks should be provided to promote other modes of transportation than a car, including kids' bike racks.
- The design team should consider shipyard traffic in their site response.
- Scheme Preferences:
 - North
 - One person noted support for the north scheme, particularly the open site space and relief around the historic building.
 - South
 - Two people noted support for the south scheme, noting they preferred the programmatic separations of the south scheme.
 - Merits to Both
 - Three people noted that there are positive aspects to both schemes.
 - Consideration should be given to the abutters.

Community Feedback Forms & Emails

Community feedback forms and emails received through 5/6/19 are included herein.

Rice Public Library - Kittery Community Meeting

Kittery Community Center - 6:00 PM, April 24th, 2019

- 6:05 pm **Introductions**
- 6:15 pm **History of the Project**
- 6:20 pm **Project Considerations**
- 6:30 pm **Preliminary Design Options**
- 6:40 pm **Breakout Sections**
6:45 to 7:45 pm Small Groups Discussion
- 7:50 pm **Closing Comments**

General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

Need a space for many more programs for all ages
Reading areas for newspapers + magazines
computers + technical support services

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

100 person meeting space; gallery space for rotating exhibits
children's area away from others; cafe; book drop →

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

Maintain historic beauty but make handicap accessible
Like seeing views of historic bldg
Like layout of south bldg better

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

This project will virtually redefine the Preside - but make room for quiet, and design so that the people down here will use the library in some way.

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

Charging stations and makers' spaces are essential to a modern library. I could live without the café, though.

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

(1) The outer design - elegant! (2) But also the fine (and strong-looking) woodwork inside.

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

Might you be able to put solar panels on the roof of the new addition, or does the shade and surrounding vegetation rule that out?

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

We have a community center. We don't need 3 conference rooms opening to one, a dance hall. Too many overlaps with Community Center waste of money

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

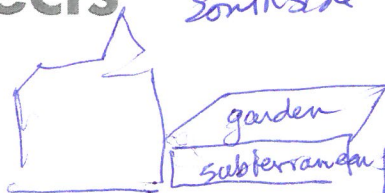
energy efficiency

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I like North addition. I'd like to see a lawn, covered parking garage on South side

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

Building + staff is part of my life
I 4-6 hrs per week there; a Kend programs; was on the board for several years.

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

location
Elevator; Ramps; Carrels or other areas to sit at a read. Small conference areas - two at least

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

Solar heating; elevator

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** Needed to interview older people + senior citizens as groups - as you did teens*
Any use for 2nd floor?
should have provided hard surface to put under this sheet

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

public / civic meeting space in heart of townside
convenient use for all, better use of site

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

the old clogged spaces available for open seating
& enjoyment - inside & out, kids spaces in & out

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

the rich details - inside & out
the tower, stairs, main rooms, brick detailing

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

well designed for function & aesthetics first
insulated shell then systems

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

Our family values library time + love Rice staff!
It is important for the community connection to continue + grow

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

Teen / tween space + programs, cross-generational programming. Maker space would be great!

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

Exterior (face), wood carved railings, top floor appearance, turrets, some outside gathering space;

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

multiverse spaces, daylighting, carbon footprint

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I like that the North option has entrances closer to the parking, since accessibility was a major consideration.

Will there be a cloakroom + lockers?
Will the staircase in the old bldg. remain intact?

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

The library is the 1st public bldg I visit in any town I go to - it reflects (usually) intellectual & aesthetically the community's interest + priority

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

individual study rooms

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

Kittery's history

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

green bldg preferred

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

We love Rice Library! As parents, we use this
resource as supplemental educ. for our kids. - ? more open hrs? -
- side note -

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

STEAM opps for kids, more formal mtg. spaces/presentation
places. Open space, bringing nature in, giving views/respect to
naval & water life, preserve view.

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

kids' floor on top!

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

Very - I'm at the library 2-3 times a week

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

Maker space

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

The outside, the upper level, Arabella Pice room

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

- as many large windows/floor-ceiling as possible - or daylight

natural light

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early June Feedback

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

*Very. Design that complements existing bldg.
Make sure enough space*

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

*Many existing programs, don't have
enough room. - need meeting room space
and children's program space*

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

*all of first & second floors inside - total
built c.*

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

*even get expensive, lots of light, use
environmentally friendly materials
to build*

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LIKE NORTH DESIGN

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

PUBLIC LIBRARY USE, LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS OWNER, BELIEVED
IN THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY + COMMON SPACE

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES, LEARNING LANDSCAPES - EDIBLE
PLANTS, ECOLOGICAL LITERACY, WATER, AIR + ENVIRON. QUALITY, GREENHOUSE?

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

2ND + 3RD FLOOR READING ROOMS + STAIRS, TOWER, ENTRY

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE, SUSTAINABLE SITES INITIATIVE
IMPROVED STORMWATER, PASSIVE SOLAR + NATURAL LIGHT

Please feel free share any impressions, concerns, or questions with us at
info@simonsarchitects.com

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Rice Public Library - Kittery Community Meeting
Kittery Community Center - 6:00 PM, April 24th, 2019

- 6:05 pm Introductions
- 6:15 pm History of the Project
- 6:20 pm Project Considerations
- 6:30 pm Preliminary Design Options
- 6:40 pm Breakout Sections
6:45 to 7:45 pm Small Groups Discussion
- 7:50 pm Closing Comments

Southern light
Exposure

View of water (?)

Parking Garage
- future opportunity

6-7000 ft²
above current

5700 ft² (2000 usable)
↳ 15000 ft²

Energy Efficient
Welcoming, Relaxing,
Social, Inviting
Kids area away from exits

Opening up circulation Desk
for all in books, storage, easy pick-up
Video Room for family movies,

General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

Very important. I took time off from
work to attend. I came b/c I use the library
with my family.

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate? How it show cases the historic bldg.

I like North Plan to keep kids from exit. We would need
to develop South side parking & access. I like larger circulation
desk of North Plan

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

External Architecture (View from inside the
building) Opening up currently off-limits parts of original bldg.

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

Winter & Summer energy efficiency, but lots of
natural light. Maintain sitting on current Rice stairs.

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Bicycle Racks.

I like the interesting architectural angles of the north scheme
+ the covered entrance by
scott simons architects upper level overhang.

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

How about a garden on the top of the flat roofs?

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

Computers and teaching skills for 21st century

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

It is a great 19th century building - We need to keep it
Perhaps to house the administration people

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

Would you consider a 3rd Floor - to be rented out to bring in
some income to the library - Paying for heat electricity etc...

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And in 25 years when Kittery has grown + the library needs to
expand - the space is there

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

Building Performance and Sustainability – Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

Vertical Access - Basement currently Difficult

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

Outdoor play space
Convenient access for elderly and handicapped

The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?

Exhibits, talks, films

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

The exterior, esp. the entrance
the wood interior - esp. the windows & shutters

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

(lots of LIGHT!) space for classes, movies, exhibits,
clubs, children's programming,

Please feel free share any impressions, concerns, or questions with us at
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lots of light
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feeling of integration

parking
scale of
2 bldgs
& human
scale

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General Comments - Please share how this project is important to you

I was part of the original Kittery Foreside Committee began in 1995, secretary for 10 yrs. Co-Chair to get 4 additional Foreside Landmarks on the National Register besides the Rice Library & The Modern Library - Are there any particular services or programs you would be interested in seeing the library accommodate?
BOOKS

Historic Buildings - Please share which aspects of the historic building you find most significant?

I loved the brass trimmed ladders used to access the top shelves - I was sorry to see those go - great if they could be incorporated somehow

Building Performance and Sustainability - Are there any specific sustainability features or approaches you think the design team should consider?

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** Wentworth House, Traip House, Samuel Badger Cemetery, John Paul Jones Park sculpture. Please respect the Rice facade keeping a lot of glass to the back.*

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With the help of grants & a small budget from the Town, the Committee was able to hire Terence Parker to design the sidewalks, add lamp posts & trees among other improvements including refurbishing the JPT sculpture, retrieving the urns from the river etc.
Janet Goulet 499-6082

chris berry
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Portland, Maine 04101

Begin forwarded message:

From: "David Lincoln"
Subject: RICE
Date: April 25, 2019 at 11:02:46 AM EDT
To: <info@simonsarchitects.com>

A couple of comments from last night's show and tell...

1/ don't agree with emphasis on preserving BIG look at retro Rice bldg.. some is o k but not controlling plans

2/ wonder if some emphasis could be given to Minerva users.. such as
a/ drive in window for pick up...b/ special/ easy station near main door ...c/ dedicated email address

3/ Kennebunk used to have senior citizen delivery service.. may tie is with "drive in" above

4/ bldg at south venue opens up more parking on north side, and could eliminate most traffic on "back" side (no parking in rear)

5/ final rendition needs to EMPHASIZE a look that says " Kittery is on the move to 21st century" ... little red brick and ;lots of ceramic/ glass appearance

6/ minimize steps old knees don't do them !!!

7/ forget coffee stations..after all Lill's is 50 steps away..avoid mess and hangout folks

D Lincoln

Begin forwarded message:

From: Geneve Hoffman
Subject: notes on Rice Library
Date: April 28, 2019 at 5:26:35 PM EDT
To: info@simonsarchitects.com

Dear Scott, Ryan & Seth,

Thank you for your public presentation last week at the Kittery Community Center.

I was one of the many Kittery residents that voted to renovate the existing building rather than build a new one. I felt very strongly about this and even did a little informal lobbying with anyone who would listen. :)

Some comments I hope you will find useful and take into consideration:

—**CHILDREN's AREA:** We used the Taylor annex for many years as my now 11 year old daughter was growing up, but always felt the children's area, esp in comparison to other libraries in the area like York, Portsmouth (and Camden - where my parents live) felt kind of sad and not inviting. Jenny brightened it up for the kids with her amazing programs and energy, but she and the kids deserve a larger and much more thoughtful space to explore, dream, and learn in together and alone. Without being too cliché - it would be nice to incorporate some sailing or lighthouse theme of some kind, esp for the little kids area.

—**MEZZANINE ROOM:** We now use the main building more often and love cozying up and reading or drawing or playing quiet games in the upstairs room. That room with it's double staircase to the mezzanine is really the reason we wanted to renovate the existing - it's so enchanting, although it needs some pretty major TLC and restoration/updating. It has a decisive dusty 90's vibe now, and I would love to see it restored to an understated modern meets maritime Victorian splendor. It could be even more grand inviting than it already is.

—**MAIN ENTRANCE:** the main entrance of the main building is cramped, dusty, ill defined and not super welcoming (the people are great! just the space needs help). The doors are confusing (heavy and "push" both ways?). What I love about entering the Camden, York & Portsmouth libraries is how serene and grand and inviting they are when you first walk in. I would like to keep the maritime woodworking front entrance look, but have it be more open and welcoming with great wayfinding.

—**ADULT READING ROOM:** I would love to see a quiet, large, sunny, inviting and comfortable reading room for adults filled with newspapers and periodicals. Again, the Camden library has an amazing space for adults. We have a lot of retirees and older, very involved adults in Kittery.

—**TEEN ZONE:** I would also love to see some kind of interactive classic (not too trendy) teen zone - quiet and inviting space for teens who love to learn and read. Maybe a game room like they have at Diversions would be fun. A lounge feel with technology front and center. One "issue" in Kittery is that Traip Academy has dwindling attendance for reasons that no one can really figure out, and I think a new and vibrant teen lounge area could help out our community and keep teens here in Kittery. I would recommend talking to current Kittery superintendent Eric Waddell if you haven't already because he has special insight into this issue since he was the principal over at Traip before he became superintendent. Maybe local teens could somehow get involved too...create some ownership of the space. <https://ideas.demco.com/webinar/innovations-teen-spaces/>

— **CLASSIC VICTORIAN SPACES/ROOMS:** I would love for all the existing rooms in the main library to be open and useful for all patrons. It feels a bit like you are shuffled around in the library right now - shuffled past many interesting rooms and nooks and crannies that you just have no access or use for. I've never understood that.

—**A CAFE, OR NOT?:** I'm torn on the idea of the cafe...it sounds nice, but one thing I love about libraries is that you can enter with \$100's in your pocket, or not a single dollar on you and have a the same wonderful experience. I think it would be something that more well to do families could enjoy and take part of, but people who have nothing would be intimidated by. When a person enters a library, all socio-economic differences should melt away. However - maybe there could be a fundraising opportunity in there somewhere...like designing a special mug for the library and getting a discount at Lil's or something...??

—**GARDENS:** Yes, yes, yes! I would love to see a Children's Garden too, if budget allows.

—**Meeting spaces/auditoriums?** Not sure this is a big priority. The KCC already has a lot of this, and it's already not being used to its potential (they should have built a pool instead of meeting rooms...but that is a subject for another time! ha). I don't think these are a big priority for a library for our population right now.

—**HISTORY:** History is a big part of our culture and I would love to keep a large archive of this in the library, but also maybe make it somewhat interactive too. Like a mini interactive museum room of some sort. The Maritime Museum in Kittery hardly gets any notice - it might be nice to have a room or experience of some kind that makes our history come alive for visitors/citizens.

Overall - I know budget and space is a concern and I know also you are going to get tons of input and advice from everyone. But - my two cents is that we don't need a giant new space filled all the latest and greatest. What we want is a unified library that reflects our past/history, present and future needs that we can all be proud of in the end. (that should be easy! - ha).

I hope this helps! Please reach out anytime. We are all so excited this is finally happening.

Thank you!

Geneve Hoffman

See below.

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 75 York Street
 Portland, Maine 04101

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tom Hibschan
Subject: Kittery Library Presentation 4/24 thoughts
Date: May 1, 2019 at 2:37:47 PM EDT
To: info@simonsarchitects.com

To: Scott Simon Architects
 Re: Rice Library mtg. 4/24 thoughts/notes

5/1/19

Scott & Team,

Thanks for your excellent presentation.

Some thoughts/notes to consider.

1. Show 3-D MODEL asap to visualize library site, scale and elevations including nearby residential homes. 3-D sketch can be simple and inexpensive. Most people can not translate 2-d shapes as 3-d forms.
2. Prefer SOUTHERN extension for better scale fit within neighborhood landscape and access to special functions without opening entire library. Better parking for locals who avoid Navy traffic and Foreside.
3. BIKE RACK area requested by Shapleigh school kids in attendance 4/24 and who asked for dedicated BIKE PATH to library. Ask for student representative to work with you for community service Note student goals from Comp Plan Update surveys.
4. ART room and MUSIC rooms for new STEAM educational programs rather than STEM.
 (An 8 year old who can play musical instrument will have improved in Math Skills)
https://www.unionleader.com/news/business/business_notebook/mike-cote-s-business-notebook-west-high-steam-students-learn/article_c9d043a7-70da-58f4-af74-a57f4a5abebe.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share
5. TOOL LIBRARY
<http://portlandmainetoollibrary.org>
<http://northportlandtoollibrary.org>
6. Consider old RICE ENTRY as mini DISCOVERY CENTER, TOURIST INFO. Foreside patron could make copies, charge phone. Partner with local business for mini chamber of commerce. Also, add electric charging station for electric cars.
7. % for Arts%
 As a Shapleigh School building committee member I helped coordinate 5 local artists on the \$6.8 million dollar renovation state funded project by Terrian Architects.

Please seek Maine Arts Commission advice and possible funding or donation. Ask Cabot Lyford or Gary Haven Smith estates.

8. Lease Taylor bldg. rather than sell. This a key property to save for a few years.
Town has sold off buildings in past due to lack off vision.
Old Dennett School bldg now "Art on Hill" was developed by Jimmy Austin.

9. Use FENG SHUI Design theory for urban design.

Feng Shui is literally translated as Wind Water. It is a method of investigating geographical features used in site selection and construction of dwellings, cities, and tombs, etc. Its core concept is the harmonious coexistence between human beings and nature.

10. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/06/arts/design/helsinki-library-oodi.html>

Helsinki's New Library Has 3-D Printers and Power Tools. (And Some Books, Too.)

The new building in the Finnish capital is intended to be a co-working space and a town square, as well as a traditional reading room.

Sincerely,

Tom Hibschan

See below

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Sara Rhoades
Subject: Rice Library
Date: May 3, 2019 at 10:46:20 AM EDT
To: info@simonsarchitects.com

I want to compliment you on a well run meeting last week, and with all the work you have done to elicit information and opinions from the residents. In order to help you with decisions, I wish to add my feedback to that which came forth in the meeting.

I admit to being concerned with the exterior as well as the interior, so with that in mind, I strongly favor the north design, wrapping around the building, not stuck on the side of it. I also suggest you use the beautiful arch of the original building as a design element in the exterior, perhaps over the new entrances. (The library in Kennebunk successfully echoed building elements in its redesign.) The tower is another echo-able element.

As a senior citizen, I want a reading space, preferably on the ground floor with access to periodicals as well as books. The York library has done a good job with this. You can browse the aisles, find a coffee table book you'd like to look at but not check out, sit down and read it. You can sample fiction and non-fiction as well as read the daily papers. One doesn't want to have to go up or downstairs to find things.

The idea of a cafe in a library does not sit well with me. Mixing food and books or electronics is not good. There are plenty of downtown opportunities for coffee and treats.

Sustainability issues are very important, but you will have to balance them with expenses. I'm not capable of figuring that out.

Thank you for listening!

Sara Rhoades

See below

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Portland, Maine 04101

Begin forwarded message:

From: MIKE CAMPION
Subject: Kittery Public Library Comments
Date: May 5, 2019 at 5:06:37 PM EDT
To: info@simonsarchitects.com
Reply-To: MIKE CAMPION

To whom it may concern, My wife and I were at the 4/24/19 KCC Meeting regarding the upcoming expansion project for the Arabella Rice Library located in the Kittery Foreside. First, I'd like to thank you for the information provided at the meeting - it was helpful to understand current state and the upcoming decisions needed to make this happen.

We live at 18 Traip Ave, the street directly behind the library. My wife and I wanted to share our thoughts on the project as well as some very important concerns to us as a neighborhood that will be directly impacted with the design:

1. Modern vs Historic Building design - we understood from your presentation that you have a more modern design approach to this project. We strongly feel that at least part of the expansion design include some historic design attributes of the existing building, as we personally prefer that and we will be looking at it from our dining room every night.

2. We, as neighbors directly across the street on Traip Ave, would rather have the northern design be selected for the following reasons:

northern design be selected for the following reasons:

- a. The design surrounds the existing building and still allows the existing historical structure to be emphasized - we like that visual effect.
- b. It would minimize additional visual interference to spaces seen from the Traip neighborhood.
- c. It allows majority of the parking to be maintained on the south end, but traffic flow into and out of the parking area will be problematic anyway, as Traip Ave is a one way street currently. We own a parking area on our property and the either design would lend itself to patrons dropping off children and elderly and potentially attempting to use our parking area. We have reserved parking areas that have been spoken for and this design would at least minimize this concern.

3. Parking, parking, parking - very concerned that this expansion will bring additional interest and people from Kittery and the surrounding communities that will substantially increase traffic flow on Traip Ave. Also, Shipyard parking between Mon-Friday is at a premium and the density of parking areas is very high in and around the foreshore area. Someone stated that a parking study indicated plenty of parking in and around the foreshore, but we've lived here 22 years - no parents with children, nor elderly people are going to search around the foreshore or other sites and park several blocks away and walk, especially in inclement weather. Additionally, there is no map or signage that provides obvious direction to find those 'authorized' spots. I have had people park on or parallel to my lawn on Traip Ave and argue that they did not see a clearly marked sign not more than 15 feet from where they park. One of the responses to this concern was that it was an enforcement issue - which I'm sure has not been budgeted for. Is there an alternate plan or way to keep the parking entrances and exits on Wentworth St vs. Traip Ave? To this last comment on parking and intrusion to the Traip Ave neighborhood - can Traip Ave be reconfigured along with this project to be accessed only from the existing Wentworth St one way exit and become an entry/exit dead end road for the neighborhood? This would allow the current Traip Ave one-way entrance road (adjacent to the southern end of the Library parking lot) to be used for additional parking for the library. This last thought would need the entry/exits from the library to be on Wentworth St closer to the building (not at the corner traffic light which would not be safe), and allow Traip Ave neighborhood road to be a dead-ended street to minimize neighborhood traffic from the library, foreshore restaurants, etc.

4. We feel that the design materials should prioritize low maintenance cost and sustainability, even if those materials cost more upfront. Based on Cost of Living increases and budget constraints in town - those are the 2 most important attributes in our opinion - and those exterior materials should be long lasting and attractive as our neighborhood value is another consideration for us as an

attractive, as our neighborhood value is another consideration for us as an adjacent property.

Thank You for considering our thoughts/comments.

r/,

Mike Champion