

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022, 7:00 PM
AT THE LIBRARY

CALL TO ORDER

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of building proposal from architect, Michael Esmay and the issue of flooding in the children's room.

In addition to controlling flooding, we need to address the growing needs of providing services to the juvenile and young adult populations. Children's services, in particular, have expanded in the last 3 years with more children using the library.

- We have a full time youth librarian for the first time in the library's existence.
- Circulation of Youth material, particularly children's books is up 7% from 2017.
- In 2019 Juvenile books represented 21% of total circulation and increased to 28% of all circulation in 2021.
- For the first 3 months of 2022, juvenile books were 35% of total circulation.
- In 2019 there were 74 programs with 861 attendees.
- In 2021 there were 84 programs with 1,388 attendees, an increase of 39%.

Youth Services Wish List

The overall goal for a renovation at Palisades in the area of Youth Services is to provide welcoming, thoughtfully designed and flexible spaces for our young patrons, from birth through age 18. We would like these children to have spaces designed with their needs in mind, where they can gather, explore, learn, and spend time together. We'd like our library to be a destination for unstructured play as well as for more formal gatherings like storytime and after-school programming.

- A piece of artwork indicating a **transition to the Children's Room**.
- An expansion of the Children's Room would provide **space for play**. A shallow platform could provide practice for stepping skills, serve as a stage for older children presenting a puppet show, and serve as a place for a child and caregiver to sit together to read a book. Perhaps a window bench with toy storage beneath could offer more toys while keeping the room tidy.

- We encounter a space shortage on busier storytime days. Last week we had 23 people at storytime.
- A changing table/workable facilities for families is starting to feel like a pressing issue!
- Moveable shelving would come at the expense of shelf space. Instead, find **shelving** that's warmer than grey metal and customize it. For the picture books, shelving could be lower, and for the middle grade readers, the shelving could be higher since they're older and able to access somewhat higher shelves. We wouldn't want more than a shelf higher than what we currently have—we'd like kids to be able to browse independently and know that their space is made for them.
- If it would be possible to integrate some **built-in, child-size features** like a low arch or a built-in reading nook, that would be an attraction for younger patrons. Is there something we can do in our small space to create the sense of wonder and privacy. Features like a sensory wall are becoming more standard in Children's Rooms, being used by young patrons and those with autism or sensory challenges. Our doll house is the greatest draw in our children's room, and it moves around often due to space constraints. It would be wonderful to give it more of a permanent space.
- A **reference desk/area** that doesn't take up much more real estate but that offers enough space for two piles of books (current space allows for one) and a recycle bin on the ground.
- **Differentiating the middle grade materials from the picture book area** might be done with shelf height, and/or potentially with paint color or artwork.
- It would be great to have **an area that's not carpeted** for messy art projects.
- For teens, we would like a **dedicated teen space** where these patrons (ages 12-18) can browse books comfortably and spend time reading, doing homework, playing games, and being together.
- Our teens are terrific and come out to volunteer regularly, but we don't have a space for them. We need to welcome teens into the library and acknowledge that they typically like to be together in groups of 2 or more. If you stop by the high school library, you'll find kids working on homework together or playing games—they're not typically seated on their own. We need a place for them to study, but also a place where they can be social together.
- Our wish to have the library become a destination when we don't have a program taking place. Our job as librarians is to support learning, and young children learn through play, which requires some space. Learning in the Children's Room is also taking place with the adults, who share information with newcomers about local farms and playgrounds—where to go to spend time with children. Important friendships and support networks are made when families gather at the library.

YOUNG ADULT AREA

LOCAL HISTORY
AND PRIVATE STUDY

ADA COMPLIANT
UNISEX TOILET ROOM

STORAGE

RELOCATED REFERENCE
LIBRARIAN

MEETING ROOM

KITCHENETTE

CHAIR & TABLE
STORAGE

REVISE & CHANGE
FOCUS OF THIS
ROOM?

45 SEATERS

UPPER LEVEL PLAN
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"







