

KETCHIKAN PUBLIC LIBRARY/FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY/FORAKER GROUP

NEW LIBRARY PUBLIC FORUM

**Monday, May 3, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.
Ted Ferry Civic Center, Naha Bay**

MINUTES

The New Library Public Forum began at 7:05 pm. Introductions were provided by City Manager (acting as meeting moderator), Karl Amylon. Manager Amylon began by informing the group that the City has been actively pursuing a site for a new library since 2003. He went on to say that at the City Council meeting of April 15, 2010, people voiced concern about the lack of public process in for this project. Manager Amylon assured the group that the intent has always been to have an open process. Manager Amylon said that there has been a comprehensive review by staff and other consultants over the last 7 years. He continued that there have been numerous meetings and public vetting for the location, design, and size, and that this would continue to be a most publicly debated project that he has seen in Ketchikan. Secondly, Amylon advised that his office does not intend to make a formal position on what site is selected. He continued that he would however, strongly recommend to the council that a decision has to be made and it has to be made now. We have been at this for the last 7 years and he stated that he does not believe that residents will disagree that we need a new library. Manager Amylon advised that his concern is that if we do not move forward expeditiously we have a chance of risking state funding opportunities currently available, sites that are currently being considered may not be available if we debate this issue for another 7 years. He went on to assure the group that there would not be any action taken by the Council, as this is not a City Council forum or meeting.

Mr. Amylon advised that the Library Feasibility Committee and the Foraker Group would be making a brief presentation on the processes that they followed regarding the size of the new library and the site selection. Following the presentation, there will be a public comments and questions. He went on to advise that there are cards at the back of the room for comment if people do not wish to comment publicly. He advised that both the Library Feasibility Committee and the Foraker Group want to hear what the forum attendees have to say, and they will take comments into account before they prepare their final recommendation to the City Council.

Heidi Eckstrand, President of the Friends of the Library and a member of the Feasibility Committee expressed her pleasure at the overwhelming support that the community has shown the library. Ms. Eckstrand advised that the Friends of the Library approached the Foraker Group a couple of years ago and initiated the process for Ketchikan's acceptance into the Foraker Pre-Development Program. She explained that at sometime after the process had been started the economy fell apart, the City was hit with unexpected and expensive projects and work on the feasibility for a new library came to a screeching halt.

The Friends stepped back, realizing that it was not the time to press for a new building in these economic times. Over time, she explained, the Foraker Group started picking things back up again, and approached the City with the possibility of including the City of Ketchikan into the Pre-Development Program. The City was accepted into the program in late 2009. The 1st formation committee meeting was in January 2010. Potential committee members were solicited from former steering committee members, Borough Assembly, and City Council. Ms. Eckstrand introduced the members of the committee present: Matt Olsen, Mark Hanslick, Lee Gerber, Bob Sivertsen, Scott Bowlen and Susan Fisher. Absent was Todd Phillips. At this time, Ms. Eckstrand also introduced Martha Schoenthal, our Foraker Pre-Development Project Manager, and Paul Volkers, MRV Architects who has been working with the committee on a number of issues. Ms. Eckstrand commented that she was so proud, pleased and impressed with the services that the Foraker Group is providing to the City of Ketchikan, at no cost. She went on to say that the organization is providing a wealth of technical information and expertise, and deserve a warm welcome.

In conjunction with the Foraker acceptance of the Friends of the Library into the Pre-Development Program, the Friends also became aware of the 20+ library projects slated for funding around the state scheduled over about the next three years. These are projects that Senator Stedman is working very hard to provide funding for. The first six were funded during the last legislative session and we are hopeful that the next six will be funded during the next legislative session. Ketchikan is second on that list of projects, she advised. They are hopeful that if a site is selected for the new library in Ketchikan, and the design be at 35% then the City will be positioned well to be included in the next round of legislative funding for the 50/50 match.

Throughout the process, the steering committee and the Friends of the Library have determined the following as preferred criteria:

- Based on the population figures, collection size, meeting room space needs, the library needs to be 16,250 sq. ft.
- A single story library is the preferred choice
- An approximately 50,000 sq. ft. site is required to support a single story solution for the new library.

Ms. Eckstrand stated that they are here tonight to give the most information they can to describe how and what the committee has done so far and is also there to hear any additional sites or ideas that anyone has to offer.

Martha Schoenthal, Foraker Group, explained that the public side of the feasibility committee kicked off in January, but the group actually started when the City was accepted into the Pre-Development Program, and they first met with Heidi and Judith back in December to understand what the needs were and what resources they could bring to the project. She explained that it quickly became evident that there was a tremendous amount of work and documentation that has gone on before. The first thing they did was review the materials done previously, including space planning, public input, the public meetings and prepare themselves for beginning again, with some basic assumptions from the original plan. A key element was identifying the population served and agree upon a population

figure. Ms. Schoenthal went on to explain that this is an important point because in 2004 based on the current the population data, the 2004 plan estimated the future population growing to 20,000 residents, which would result in a library size of 27,000 sq. ft. That population projection for 20 years out was revisited in 2006-2007 and the population figure was revised to 16,000, resulting in a 23,000 –24,000 sq. ft. facility. She stated that the current population appears to be remaining stable at 13,000 people. An appropriately sized library for a community of 13,000 would be 16,250 sq. ft. She explained that with that population they took a look at collections, seating, the materials extent, and Paul Volkers with MRV developed a space program bracketing high and low square footages for the elements that would go into a library. She informed the group that they went over the materials in the January meeting, and then met again in February, going into more a lot more detail, coming up with a square footage requirement of 16,250 square feet.

Ms. Schoenthal said that some of the key things we should be interested in knowing is that in terms of the sq. footage of the stacks area of the books itself, it is designed to have a 10% expansion capacity in the collections. In the seating areas/lounge areas/study carousel areas, the high-low figure for that was between 65-93 seats for a population of 13,000 served, and a conservative 73 seats was selected. This calendar year the children's story area, she stated, hosted 134 different story hours, and they looked at attendance figures to determine what the size of the space should be, coming up with 350 sq. ft. to serve 50 children. Of a great deal of concern was the multi-purpose program room. Of the 114 different programs that the library hosted a multipurpose program room that could seat up to 60 people would accommodate 93% of the functions that the library would host. She went on to say that they recommend one wall be a movable wall so that they could host the larger events that occasionally occurred. They added a small multi-purpose room that could serve for arts and crafts but also serve as a small meeting room. She said that there are currently no statistics on how many meetings could run simultaneously because they can't host meetings.

Ms. Schoenthal remarked that she found it fascinating that the 2004 study that programmed the 27,000 sq. ft. calculated 1.34 sq. ft. per person of the population served. This program is at 16,250 sq. ft. and it calculates approximately 1.25 sq. ft. per person served. If you wonder why it was 27,000 sq. ft. and then it was 23,000 sq. ft. and then 16,250 sq. ft. it goes back to the population served.

Martha Schoenthal advised that they are not the Cities architects. MRV Architects was hired by the Foraker Group to provide an independent analysis for the project. The City would be hiring its own architects for the design work.

Paul Volkers, representing MRV Architects, said that Martha did a great job summarizing all of the programming steps that have been taken, and after the meeting in January they were set up to start figuring out what that means in terms of total size of the facility, and then projecting that to what the needs will be for a site.

He continued that they took the 16,250 sq. ft. size recommendation and then analyzed what size site would be required to support the facility, making allowances for the square footage required, parking for 22 vehicles, bus parking, setback and a 25% overage for future growth. He said the 25% overage allows for expansion for future growth. When combining those three factors you end up with a single-story option that is about 48,000 sq. ft. They also

looked at a multi-story option, which would drop the site size requirement down to about 32,000 sq. ft. Mr. Volkers continued that the single-story option is the preferred alternative as it is easier to manage the building, and it would require less staff to operate. A multi-story operation has to have more people in the building. A single-story solution is more efficient in terms of space needs, as elevators, stairs would not be required which would save approximately 1,000 sq. ft.

Mr. Volkers presented to the group a power point slide, listing all of the sites previously considered. The group reviewed site from 2003-2004, as well as those identified more recently by the RFP process. He stated that some sites washed out as no longer available, or were no longer relevant. From that list they developed a list of 11 sites that met the size criteria of 48,000 sq. ft. He advised that they worked closely with one of the local realtors, Bill Bolling of Gateway Realty, who volunteered to assist in finding other available sites, and Trevor Sande of R&M Engineering-Ketchikan.

The Feasibility Committee reviewed and graded the sites, taking into consideration neighborhood feel, construct-ability, and zoning. The selection was then narrowed down to 7, and after field trips to visit the sites and deliberation narrowed the selection further to 4 sites that they would like to have more detailed analysis performed on: Arntzen Quarry, Copper Ridge, Heckman street lot, and Skinner Sales. These sites were given a letter grade based the following site attributes: neighborhood feel, construct-ability of site, view and ambience, transportation links, proximity to public amenities, environment, utilities and infrastructure, and zoning. From those criteria they then developed a more detailed analysis packet on each of the four sites.

Summarizing the findings, Mr. Volkers advised that:

The Arntzen Quarry is located on Tongass Avenue, directly across from the ferry parking lot. The parcel is part of an active quarry that is highly developable but is disadvantaged by being a quarry with unfriendly vertical walls on more than one side and less connection with the neighborhood than one would like. There is easy accessibility, but it is a little disconnected to school and community fabric. He displayed a site plot slide for facility placement reference. Infrastructure/development cost, he continued, is ballpark estimate at approximately \$200,000 and the estimate sale price for the property is \$20 per square foot.

Copper Ridge is located at the intersection of Schoenbar Road and the Third Avenue Bypass. The property is the first lot on the down slope side of the new development area previously used as a quarry and for industrial staging. The site parallels the ridge with panoramic views across Bear Valley to Deer Mountain. The neighborhood connection and feel is judged to be good. The site is quieter and more isolated than other sites along Tongass Avenue, providing more of a suburban library experience. It has good connections to schools, recreation areas and residential neighborhoods. The bypass provides winter connectivity. The site is on relatively deep fill. Recent test excavation has shown the fill to be suitable for simple foundation systems. Mr. Volkers displayed photos showing the site and setting, and how a 16,000 sq. ft. library would sit. Infrastructure/development cost, he advised, is estimated to be approximately \$200,000, and the estimate sale price for the property is \$10 per square foot.

Heckman Street Site is located across from Heckman in the A&P/Post Office vicinity. It is a large site. The evaluated suggestion is to subdivide the large parcel and cut off the piece closest to Tongass Avenue because 1) the entire area is not needed for a library, 2) it is expensive property, and 3) by getting a little off of Tongass the amenity of the site goes up. At the back of the lot there is a bit of a rising slope and a forested portion to the rear. The property has good attributes with good neighborhood connection, easy access, and reasonable visibility. The location, he continued, is set into an alder grove at the rear portion of the lot, which would allow a good set back from Tongass Avenue. Some portions of the site would require moderate development steps including over-excavation of organic materials. He advised that Mr. Sande looked at the probable developmental impact and in his experience quite a bit of organic soils would have to be removed and back filled with fabric and shot-rock. There is also a fair bit of utility work to bury a stream that runs across the site. Site infrastructure/development cost for this location, he advised, is estimated at \$700,000 and the sale price estimate is approximately \$15 per square foot.

Skinner Motor Site is a little further west of town and is located along Tongass Avenue just before the Wal-Mart intersection. The site and building have been used for a car dealership, which is now bankrupt, he stated. It is assumed that the building would be demolished since the potential adaptability for a library is nearly impossible. The site has good construct-ability, good visibility, and a pleasant separation from the road to minimize noise and disruption. The site offers a generally pleasant view to the south-southwest with a long vista across Tongass Narrows to the airport. Adjoining properties are undeveloped and a bit unappealing at present time. The site does not offer neighborhood connections but is benefited by the quantity of public going to Wal-Mart and other nearby commercial establishments. The connections to school, recreation areas and other public functions are also limited. The site raised interesting development issues because it is not served by City water/sewer so part of the equation is to develop a freshwater water/sewer system, in addition to a costly firefighting system that would have to be constructed. The estimated site infrastructure/development cost is \$500,000 and the sale price and time frame is uncertain due to the receivership process.

Mr. Volkers continued that based on this information from the March meeting Martha cracked the whip and so 7 evaluators scored the attributes of the properties from 1 to 5 with 1 being low and 5 being high. He presented slides showing the scoring of the properties and scores concluded that Copper Ridge was significantly ahead of the other sites, and the Arntzen Quarry significantly lower than the other sites. This ended up being the basis for some initial conclusions that the steering committee brought back to the City Council with a sense that they had three viable sites of which the Copper Ridge site was the highest scoring.

Martha Schoenthal briefed the attendees on the matching grant funds that the Manager's Office would be applying for. She explained that there was a senate bill passed several years go that offered matching funding to communities that are undertaking library projects and this year the State Library Association did a survey of all their librarians and the library projects that are contemplated and based on the degree of completion developed a matrix and recommendation to the state as to which libraries would get funded. Ms. Schoenthal

provided copies of matrix to the attendees. She stated that the six recommended for funding this year by the State Library Association are currently in the capital budget at the recommended levels, for funding this year. The funding matrix clearly shows, she stated, that Ketchikan is inline for recommendation for funding in the 2012 capital budget. In order to achieve this, she stressed, that in her experience, we would need to have site control be at 35% design, and have a project development plan to go forward on how we would plan to deliver the project.

Heidi Eckstrand added that the communities funded in the last session were Kenai, Cordova, Seward, Petersburg, Barrow and Sutton, and included in the next bandwidth would be Anchorage, Ketchikan, Sitka, Fairbanks/North Pole, Fairbanks/Noel Wien, and Kodiak.

Manager Amylon commented that each year the program funding will be subject to legislative approval, and he thinks that we have to keep in mind that as more and more projects come off the list there could be less incentive to fund the program 3-4 years down the road. Whatever project the council approves, at whatever site, he thinks it is incumbent that we need to move while the program is still a hot item in terms of the legislature as a whole.

At this point the floor was opened up for public comment. Martha Schoenthal opened up the floor to anyone who wanted to speak to the issue.

Judy Arteaga, retired school librarian, said she has worked closely with the public library staff during the planning and implementation of the automation process to offer all books in all the libraries to all the citizens in the community. She said that Ketchikan has needed a new library for about 25 years, when that project started. She said that many wonderful additions have been added to our community but the library has always been put on the back burner. The money to build a library is within sight, she said, and it's time to make a selection and more on. For 7 years, she continued, many loyal and dedicated people in this area volunteered their time to scout the community for building sites to come up with recommendations, and so on. Each time the committee has brought recommendations forward to the Council something went wrong. The selection was too expensive, it wasn't acted upon, and time went by. Arteaga said that the preferred Copper Ridge site that the committee is recommending is the best site for our library at this time for these reasons, it meets the minimum size requirements, will have plenty of parking with direct access to the building, it is located on the bus system, has a beautiful view of Deer Mountain, is close to schools and youth activities, the proposed swimming pool, and is next to a residential neighborhood, has year round access and is close to downtown. She stated that she sincerely hopes that the City Council will go ahead and select this site so that we can get the project moving and the new library can become a reality.

Chris Parks, General Manger of Tongass Trading Co. advised they own the property at Heckman Street and Tongass. He spoke in favor of the Heckman site, and advised that his mother was a librarian for 36 years, was the head of special services for the state of Washington and has been on numerous site selection committees in Washington State. He stated that three years ago, when the 1st RFP came out for the City he submitted the property to the selection committee, and drove around with his mother looking at all of the selections and she chose the Heckman Site as by far the best. Tongass Trading purchased the property in 1996. One of the reasons that Tongass purchased that site, he stated, was

that it was one of the highest traffic locations. The Copper Ridge site may be more inexpensive, he continued, but he feels that the biggest value to the community would be a library that would be used the most. Ketchikan Medical Clinic sat there successfully for 20 or 30 years. It was relocated, he added, and it did not last a year. The Heckman site is right next to the Pioneers Home, across from the Post Office, it is by the grocery store and near Wal-mart, is on the transportation lines, is a safe visible area. He said that site has the most people passing by on a regular basis, so it's the best location for a library. Parks said it would be "the kiss of death" to put the library at the Copper Ridge site, because there isn't enough traffic in that area. He continued that the property is an 80,000 square foot lot, which is bigger than the RFP. It is bigger than what is needed but there are things in that area that the community needs, such as the Pioneers Home possible expansion in the future, additional or new space for the Senior Center. The flat ground, transportation links, handicapped access makes the location perfect for the library. The original asking price for the site was over \$20 per square foot, but they are willing to negotiate and sell it at cost. He continued that there is the added benefit of space to lease, such as the coffee stand who pays \$1,000 per month, the shipyard needs extra parking for their staff so that they can expand, as well as additional space for library expansion should the need arise. The additional property could be leased and generate revenue, he said.

Pat Jirschele said the library is in the middle of the City, is accessible to all, and should not be moved from its present location in the Centennial Building downtown. He questioned previous studies results recommending a library size much larger than what the current experts are recommending. Mr. Jirschele mentioned that he has heard excuses such as the dead fish smell as reasons why the library must move, but said that he presented a simple solution to that problem in 2007, which has yet to be implemented. He said the museum should move out to the soon to be vacant fire hall, and the library should be remodeled and expanded into the museum's space. "Downtown can't afford to lose another anchor," he said, business or building. A lot of people use the library every day and the small number of businesses that stay open year round are hanging on by their fingernails. The Borough has left the downtown, and he stated that government should be trying to help these businesses survive the winter and get more businesses into the area. He went on to question whether the funding was driving the need, or was the need driving the funding.

Loann Swanson, resident since 1965, said that we can't move the soul of the community away from downtown and if we can't stay in the building that the library is in now, then it should be moved to the old Main Street school site. She expressed her desire to keep downtown for those who live here and love it.

Terry Wanzer, stated that he attended the City Council meeting of April 15, and the public voiced many opinions and the common thread was that the library should remain downtown. He said that they were told that there could not be a remodel in this process, and only a new facility could be funded. City Council directed the selection committee to bring back a short list of other sites and bring back a recommendation no later than May 13th. A group of concerned citizens have met and done research on the project. They are in attendance, he said, to urge the panel to consider another alternative, Main Street School lot.

KJ Harris stated that the City Council has made a whole lot of decisions over the last few years and not all of them were the brightest things that they have ever done, and they are not the brightest bulbs in town. He continued that he has no dogs in this fight and could

care less where we put the "damn library," but he takes exception to putting it across the street from a jail. He continued that not everyone will be happy with whatever the council decides to do in regards to the library, but they are there trying to give it a shot.

Harvey Smith, owner of Alaska Trading, advised that his is one of the businesses that stay open year round and is hanging on by his fingernails. He continued that he is thinking about not being open next year because it has been such a lousy year. He stated that taking the library out of the downtown would be putting the nail in the coffin. He said that he wants a new library, and stated that the criteria predetermined the outcome as it required a flat piece of land and there is no place downtown that will happen. He advised that he is against all three sites that the committee selected and one of the criteria should have been for the survive-ability of downtown. He stated that it is a public library and the public should be heard and he is tired of project being pushed by financing not feasibility.

Stephen Reeve, Kent Miller and Linda Millard (the Friends of the Friends of the Library) gave a joint presentation advocating for their preferred site, the Main Street site, which the committee deemed too small. The Main Street site is really made up from three parcels, the main school site at 33,310 sq. ft., the children's park at 15,000 sq. ft., and the Main/Grant parking lot at 15,000 sq. ft. They stated the combination of the Main Street site and the Main/Grant parking lot come in at 48,000 sq. ft. which meets the criteria and would provide enough room for a two-story building plus more than the required 22 parking spaces. The site offers historical value, is near the courthouse, and has inspiring views in all directions and during all seasons. They also said that an elevator could be installed to bring people from the lower lot on the corner of Main and Grant streets. They spoke to the different access options to get to the lot. Reeve said it also would be less expensive than the three recommended sites, because the city already owns it, and it has the added benefit of having the utilities in place. Miller said the city could increase parking in some of its existing lots by redesigning those lots, which would make up for any spaces lost to make room for the library. In addition, the old hospital, awaiting abatement or possible demolition, could become a new public parking lot, and people could park at the Berths, or at the Centennial lot, he said. They commented that should growth expansion become an issue we could look at satellite branches throughout the community and further commented that this plan keeps with the plans that are underway for a Main Street art district with the location of the Arts Council, the construction of the Performing Arts Center which is currently underway and the activities that occur along Main Street.

Lee Gerber expressed to the people providing the joint presentation his concerns regarding the lack of parking already being experienced in the downtown core, and does not think that putting a library where a parking area currently sits is a real good idea.

Sam Bergeron stated that he can appreciate the concerns from Mr. Gerber, but pointed out that the original study was done when the borough offices were downtown and the demand was alleviated when they moved the borough offices across town. He stated that parking should not be the issue, and that the team has adequately addressed the issue of parking.

Matt Olsen, a City Council member and a member of the library feasibility committee, stated that he still has concerns about parking is mostly concerned about the assumption that the Borough is going to accept a reduction in number of parking spaces. He questioned whether the Friends of the Friends of the Library the group had talked to the borough,

because there are parking requirements for any new construction. He also stated concern that the Main School lot is one of the only 24-hour lots in the downtown for people to live downtown, and for people who have to report for jury duty.

Leslie Jackson from the borough's Planning Department said her department was working on a revitalizing Ketchikan projects as well as a downtown Ketchikan parking analysis. She stated that the Planning Department would be like to work with the City on a way to make parking work for a library downtown. "Please involve us," she said. "We would love to work with you on the parking issue."

John Hill, downtown resident and business owner, thinks that there is some confusion out there about the library, as he and his wife thought the Main Street site was already in the mix. He said the community can't have it both ways. The government talks about building a year round downtown, but then spends public money to move in the opposite direction. He said the city needs to consider what the public wants its downtown to look and feel like, and should keep the library downtown. He stated that he does not like hearing that the role of the City planners is to figure out how to park the cars, and it is not about how to park the cars – it's about how to build a community that works for us.

Bobbie McCreary, who states she lives on the hill and about 25 years ago moved to Ketchikan. The first place she visited in Ketchikan was the library, and every time someone comes to town to visit her, the first place she takes them is the library and thinks that the current location has the most beautiful view. She commented to Judith McQuerry that she knows they need more space and thinks we should move the museum. She commented that she, too, wants the library to remain downtown. "I have never lived in a city with a library in an industrial zone next to dump trucks," and thinks that it is very dangerous for children, she said.

Jack Shay, a City Council member, stated that this is wonderful and regardless of the outcome on location, we are going to have a new library, which is our major objective. Mr. Shay thanked all of the committee members, employees, Rasmussen Foundation, Foraker Groups, and concerned citizens for all of their hard work over all these years. He spoke in favor of a downtown site. He said he walked from downtown to the Copper Ridge site, and it took him about 35 minutes.

Erin Eloth, Newtown area resident, stated that she works for the government and the public process is not new to her and she wanted to emphasize to those on the panel and those who have been working on this project and she appreciates the frustration they are experiencing having put in years and hours and hours of work, but everyone in the room really wants to see the right thing happen. She said that everyone is worried about the wrong decision being made, and the pros and cons list most have used get thrown out and people do what they want to do anyway.

Heather Muench thanks the Friends of the Library for all of the effort and work that has gone into trying to get us a new library. That being said stated that she doesn't agree with a lot of the things being said and totally does not support the Main Street School site. She stated that it has been studied and studied, and the architects tried to make it work but it just does not work, and there is no room for expansion that is realistic. Parking downtown is tight, she said, and had people drop her off, as there is no place to park. She continued hat if re-

striping was the "hot-ticket" then it should have been done already. She stated that she is concerned with the idea of an elevator running kids up to the Main Street site, because how can we ensure the safety of the children. There are some sketchy people in this town and that is a perfect place, she said, to capture a child. She doesn't want the library downtown, because she hates coming downtown in the summer. Muench said downtown doesn't need a library, because it's turned into a tourist town. We can't make everyone happy and we can study this to death, she said, but the bottom line is that we can't miss this opportunity on May 15th to get us a library now.

Bob Warner, questioned why are we moving the library in the first place? He stated that he though Pat Jirschle said it best when he asked the same question. In the late 1980's before the library closed, there was a study by a group working with the library and the museum. At that time, he continued, it was decided that the current structure of the Centennial Building and its historic significance to Ketchikan made it more important and can serve a library much better than a museum. He questioned who decided it was better to move the library instead of the museum, and his vote is to keep the library where it is and move the museum to the old fire station.

John Stewart stated that he would also like to see the museum move and the library stay where it's at. The back door access to the Main Street site, he continued, is basically the same as the back door access to the existing library. He also has concerns about the bus line being at the bottom of the hill, and having to go up hill to get to the elevator. It does not seem practical to bring the bus up that hill and around that corner, he said. He stated that we have seen a lot of history destroyed around this town and there has been an effort going to keep what we have left. The Centennial Building is only 43 years old but has great historic significance, which he views as a masterpiece of architecture that is perfectly suited for a library.

Shomichael Burke (?) commented that he lives within walking distance of the Heckman Site, and thanks for the suggestion of having the library put there, but no thanks, he said. The site by Wal-Mart is in the middle of nowhere and the Quarry site is the middle of nowhere, but it is a terrible spot for a library. He commented that when he started college, a the university remodel project started and ended about the time he received his diploma and the jackhammer sounds are still in his head.

Kelly Johnson, who works at the Ketchikan Public Library, and part of her job over the last three years has been working with the Teen Advisory Committee, and loves she working with the teenagers on various programs, but hates the teen "cubicle" downstairs at the library. Johnson said there isn't any room for the teens to meet. They can't look up colleges there, they cant get on a web site and see about available scholarships or even do research. Often, she added, the groups have to go upstairs where they are frowned upon because they make noise, but teens are supposed to make noise and they are good at it. She said that the teen group always needs a supervisor because there often are "slightly inebriated" clientele at the library. She said that what has happened, and what will happen in the downtown is not based on the library, and the library being the anchor point but rather it is based on business. Johnson said teenagers are the community's future, and they needed to be considered when choosing a site for the new library. "The library's future should not be in downtown," she said.

Kyan Reeve stated that the one of the top 10 objectives for a walk-able community is to have a library in the core of the community. He stated that it can be a space that we can be proud of, that visitors can come and see and will be a space that will hopefully be a big part of an economic development strategy for the community because we need to have a downtown that has a soul. He read a piece provided by Jonathan Learner regarding library placement, function, and synergy to jumpstart a level of activity in the urban center. He commented on the negative noise aspects of placing the library in the Copper Ridge industrial area and said that it is not going to be a good location.

Bill Rotecki stated that the original analysis eliminated the Main Street lot because it was too small, and he continued that if we revisit that we will find that it not true. He requested that the site be added to the possible sites and re-score the options. He expressed his appreciation and sympathy for the members who have worked so hard to find a site, and then have to hear so many negative comments.