

Friends of the Roslindale Branch Library Renovation Priorities September 2017

Introduction

The library was built in 1961 and has not been significantly improved since. The library is a much loved and very important community resource in a vibrant, diverse neighborhood. The Roslindale Friends work hard to provide excellent, varied, and creative programming. We hope for a renovation that will position our library as an innovative and effective community convener and educational resource for the next several decades. We want to see a welcoming, highly visible entrance; lots of flexible space that is well lit with good acoustics; and a renewed exterior with some patron outdoor space. We anticipate increased circulation and traffic as a result of the renovation and would like the new space to reflect and appeal to everyone who lives in Roslindale.

Assumptions

We understand the following BPL program requirements (as of April 30, 2013) will be included in the renovated branch.

- ADA accessible entrance
- Efficient circulation station
- Self check-out and self pick-up areas
- Children's room with early literacy nook
- Teen space
- Adult space
- Technology in all age groups – lots of outlets, strategic placement of copy machine and printer
- Multipurpose room
- Staff work room/break room/office
- Staff desks in public area
- Updated furniture and fixtures/flooring/paint
- New restrooms
- Signage (exterior, interior directional, and collections)
- Review of mechanical/plumbing systems
- Security – cameras, card access, etc.

These items were included in the scope of all three Roslindale Library planning options proposed after the programming study, and we expect to see these elements in the final design.

- Remediated basement storage space
- New entrance canopy
- Ramp and vestibule
- New book drop

- New finishes, equipment, circulation desks, furniture, shelving, signage and ceilings at first floor
- New mechanical system and controls, new fire protection at first floor
- Plumbing as required
- New electrical system and fixtures
- Professional landscape design
- Fence and recycling area at rear of building
- New recycling, trash, and equipment room
- Adult study area at entrance of building

Additional Friends Priorities (gathered from the community, library staff, and Friends over past three years)

Interior

- Counter seating at windows facing Poplar and Washington Streets for laptop use/reading (as in Johnson Building)
- Renewed community room with updated AV equipment, good acoustics, and an event kitchen
- Comfortable furniture purchased with community input
- Address glare issue with windows in dome
- Children’s activity area – wall-mounted toys? and computers (Tiny Tikes) for small children
- Modular, moveable shelving to maximize flexible use of space – enough for current and future collections
- Places for plants as a design element and to improve air quality
- Well-designed and easy to use interior display cases for community education and use by partners like Roslindale Historical Society, etc.
- Small meeting rooms and quiet spaces
- Stroller parking area
- Space for the Friends to continue to serve the community (storage for events and sales)
- Plan for future programming space in basement when staffing allows
- Dumbwaiter if using basement for storage

Exterior

- Thoughtful solution to street gallery, considering sun bleaching and lighting
- Paint the dome exterior
- New and creative use of current front, walled perimeter, driveway space, and back of building area (see images on p. 3) – we would like to see something like the JP outdoor seating area*
- Bike racks
- Water source in front of building
- Ramp for deliveries, snow blower, etc.

General

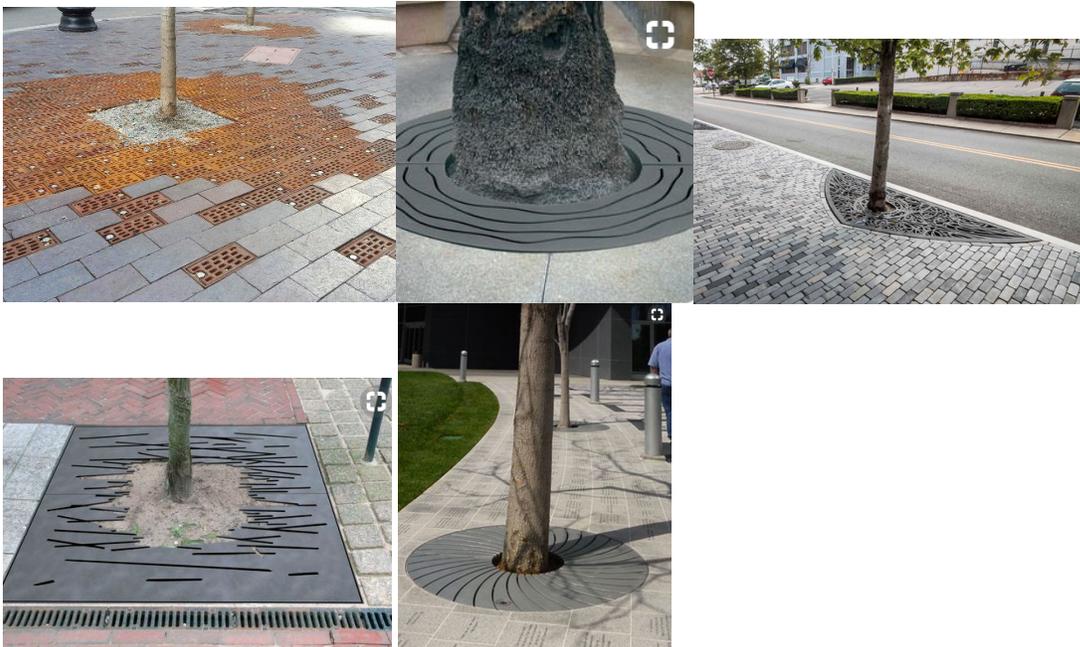
- Interior and exterior maintenance plan for all new and restored service – types of cleaning and how often
- Water fountain with water bottle filler

Additional creative ideas to consider

- Moving the entrance further along the window wall
- Mobiles to define the different uses of space (children, teen, fiction, etc.)
- Maker space
- Incorporate sustainable energy through solar panels, solar- or wind-powered signage, solar ivy, etc. (LEED status?)
- Seating around outside perimeter of building
- LED sign for advertising events on a “crawl” to the street traffic
- “LULA” elevator, cheaper and slow but reliable
- Incorporate blank wall space for art installations/shows

The images below support our interest in an integrated walking, sitting, planted space as outlined in our priority on p. 2:

*New and creative use of current front, walled perimeter, driveway space, and back of building area (see images on p. 3) – we would like to see something like the JP outdoor seating area**



(Note pavers in last image with words/names as possible Friends fundraising idea)