

Lake Forest Library Board of Trustees
Kasian Room, 360 E Deerpath Road, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045
Building Committee Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m., August 30, 2021

Call to Order

Trustee Bryan Bertola, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Kasian Room, Lake Forest Library. Committee members Trustee Bryan Bertola and Trustee Heather Strong were present. Library Board Members present: Trustee Elizabeth Grob, Board President John Johnson, and Trustee Andrea Lemke. Library Staff present: Catherine Lemmer, Executive Director; Ed Finn, Director of Operations.

Appointment of Secretary Pro Tem

Trustee Bertola asked Catherine Lemmer to serve as secretary for the meeting.

Building Committee Items

Trustee Bertola introduced the members of the Building Committee. He welcomed the many members of the public, including representatives of the Lake Forest Preservation Foundation, the Friends of the Library, and The Lake Forest Library Foundation noting that the purpose of the meeting was to update the public on the Committee and its role in leading the dome and rotunda prioritization project.

The HGA Dome Report (available on the Library's website) was shared with the attendees. Trustees Bertola and Strong noted the work by HGA was well done, comprehensive, and is serving as a starting point for additional investigation for the dome and rotunda prioritization project.

Trustee Bertola emphasized that the work is just beginning, and the Committee was here to listen to the public's concerns and questions and gather input on the dome and rotunda prioritization project.

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee, Ask Questions, and Discussion

The rest of the meeting was conducted as a workshop with open dialogue with the attendees. Trustee Strong outlined the scope of the project and noted that the influencing factors of any architectural project are fast, cheap, and quality. She then noted the old architecture joke, that no one project can deliver all three. These criteria can, however, be used to define project priorities.

Trustee Strong asked attendees to share their questions and comments around three main topics: *Cost; Process and Timing; and Materials and Methods.*

The following is a summary of the public comments and questions, grouped under the topics:

Cost

- How you plan to cover the cost? Taxpayers? Private funds?
- When will we know the cost for repairing the dome?
- Is it more cost effective to put the restoration/addition project together with the dome?
- Will it be a prevailing wage project?

Process and Timing

- When will the project scope and process be determined?
- What is the relationship to the dome project to the addition/renovation project?
- Are there architects that specialize in historic dome preservation, and could we attract them given the construction boom?
- Do you have a timeline for the project?
- Do you have the original 1931 architectural drawings?
- Do you have City approval to do this project?
- Since the project may take awhile, will the current wrap last another season?
- Timing is important and needs to be determined. When would you like to start the project?
- How are you selecting the architectural consultant?
- Will you have a “supervising” architect that focuses on the details (architect that bird dogs the details versus using construction manager)?
- Do we need further testing to know the extent of the repairs? Do we need a second opinion on the HGA Dome Report?
- Do you envision a role for the Lake Forest Preservation Foundation?

Materials and Methods

- How will we make the dome last 100 years?
- Do you need to move out of the Library to fix the dome?
- What is on the agenda to fix the murals? Is it restore or protect?
- Dome is made of leaded copper. How will you match mortar and other historic features? Do you intend to replace with the same materials?
- Does the dome just need to be repaired every 30 years? Is a dome the type of structure that is simply prone to leaks?
- Do we know the deterioration situation inside?
- From the HGA Dome Report it appears that drainage is very important. Are you considering redesigning or addressing material failures?

The Lake Forest Preservation Foundation offered to collaborate and suggested the Library engage the city in a community engagement process.


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Trustee Strong summarized the public's questions and comments. Trustees Strong and Bertola again noted that the goal is to approach the project holistically, gather all the information, and make the right decisions. The Library Board knows that there is lots of work to be done and the dome and rotunda are a starting point. Trustee Strong responded that the intent is to focus on the dome, but to keep the restoration/expansion project moving forward as the dome project advances. President Johnson noted that the Library and City are in close communication and that there is support for starting with the dome restoration.

Trustee Bertola thanked the attendees for their comments and noted that the Library will continue to keep the public informed and update the Library website. As the investigation continues, the Library will be able to answer more of the questions.

There being no new business, Trustee Bertola adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Upcoming meetings: Regular Board Meeting, September 14, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine A. Lemmer", written over a horizontal line.

Catherine A. Lemmer, Secretary pro tem

Minutes approved by the Library Board on September 14, 2021.