



Newton City Council

Committee of the Whole Agenda

Monday, December 5, 2016

7:00 pm
Chamber

The City Council will meet in a Committee of the Whole with the Library Building Committee presiding on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber to discuss the below item:

Referred to Programs & Services, Public Facilities and Finance Committees

- #388-16** **Authorize the Library Board of Trustees to apply for grant funds for library renovation**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the City Council authorize the Board of Library Trustees to apply for any state funds which might be able to make improvements and additions to the Newton Free Library and which will defray all or part of the cost of the design, construction and equipping of the library project; and to authorize the Library Trustees to accept and expend any such funds when received without further appropriation. [10/31/16 @ 2:05 PM]

The location of this meeting is handicap accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you need a special accommodation, *please contact Jini Fairley, at least two days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov, or 617-796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service dial 711.*



Report Card 2016

Where is service strong? Where could it be better?

A

Collections & Borrowing

- At 559,912 items, Newton has the 4th largest collection in Massachusetts
- 1.65 million loans annually, the largest borrowing levels at any single library building in Massachusetts
- 702,314 visits in fiscal year 2016
- 45,059 residents have library cards; an average of 19 items are borrowed by each resident annually

A

Adult Cultural & Educational Program Activity

- 664 programs and workshops in our 340 open days, attended by 14,782 people

C

Community Meeting Space

The Good: The Library booked 2981 meetings in FY16, a 70% increase in three years.
 Could be better: Druker Auditorium's 125-seat capacity is frequently reached. More mid-sized conference room space would allow us to accommodate the public meeting space requests we now turn down on a daily basis due to lack of availability.

A

Youth Programming & Outreach Activity

- 803 children's storytimes & programs, 185 teen programs and 776 outreach visits to Newton classrooms and pre-schools reached 40,990 kids, teens and their families.

F

Youth Program Space

- The 405 sq ft combined Story & Crafts Room would be sub-standard in even the smallest communities. We run two story hours each morning, but must turn families away daily for lack of room, and the experience of crowding into a tiny space for those who do attend leaves much to be desired.
- There is no Teen Activity Space, so Teen programs are often held in open study areas, diminishing our ability to provide focused study space to other people using the library.

A

Children's Room Activity & Borrowing

- Our Children's room lends more books than most libraries in the state, only 14 *libraries* do more.
- Analysis of Children's collection use shows that almost every item goes out several times a year.

D

Children's Room Space

- There is no activity space to engage families with young kids, no computer lab sized for children, and too little homework study space.
- Much of the collection is shelved out of reach of children on shelving that is too high.

The Models: The new Children's Rooms at the Cambridge Public Library and the Boston Public Library.

C

Teen Service

The Good: Teen collection use grew 3.5% in FY15, and Teen programming far exceeds FY16.

Could be better: A larger, more distinct teen space is needed, with its own activity space.

The Model: The Boston Public Library's new Teen Space at Copley Square.

Library Report Card, 2016

Where is service strong? Where could it be better?

B

Library Computing & Technology

- The Good: We provide 45 public computers, access to 3D Printing and an array of technology classes and individual tech help appointments.
- Could be better: 12 of our drop-in computers are in our computer teaching lab, which is now often booked for classes. (501 times in FY16, compared to 52 three years ago)
Public computer seating is uncomfortable and cramped.

Incomplete

Library Maker Space

- The Goal: To create a space for hands-on interaction with technology, from the latest computer-driven 3D Printers and laser cutters to more traditional techniques, all building upon the huge success and popularity of our STEAM programming.
- The Models: Maker Spaces at Westport, CT; Peabody, Easton and Watertown, MA; Chattanooga, TN; and many others across the country.

F

Café & Flexible Study Space

- The Models: Full service library cafés with related study space are great successes in Watertown, Worcester, Brookline and Quincy, with the best model at Northeastern's Snell Library which has a flexible "Library Commons" group study space nearby.
- The Reality: We are only able to provide our small snack area by taking a conference room and the meeting room kitchenette out of their intended service.

C

Study Space & Tutor Space

- The Supply: 11 Study Rooms; 94 Carrel seats; 41 large tables, 45 Lounge chairs
- The Demand: Our survey shows that 70% of the time ALL study rooms are occupied. Carrels are the next favorite, but the large tables typically only have 10-15% of their seats occupied.
- The Goal: To increase study room capacity, to increase the comfort level of all seating and to shift from large, under-utilized tables to more individual study seating and round tables better suited to collaborative work.

D

Newton City Archive Space

- Today: Newton's City Archivist has workspace at the library, but collection space is at capacity, there is no specialized cold storage and all other city departments are left to their own devices to meet state mandated storage requirements.
- The Goal: Comprehensive archival storage for all city departments in one facility integrated at the Newton Free Library, thus taking advantage of existing state exemptions to house certain materials outside of the City Hall.

D

Parking

- The Supply: 185 parking spaces with additional parking on Homer and Walnut Streets.
- Could be better: The public's frequent frustration with parking space availability would improve if City Hall had better parking for staff and visitors, and if we met the standard set by the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners that stipulates a space for every 400 square feet of building ($91,000 / 400 = 237$), plus additional handicapped spaces.