

Second Community Meeting Q&A on Library Renovation - August 3rd, 2024 Ward 6 Office

Question: What will be done to the donor bricks and donor benches?

Answer: We deeply value the contributions of our donors, and we will work closely with the Friends of the Library to ensure that these cherished bricks and benches find a meaningful place in our renovated space. It's about honoring our history while moving forward together.

Question: How big is the meeting room space compared to other new libraries?

Answer: We are committed to providing a space that meets the diverse needs of our community. At 960 sf, the new meeting room is almost double the existing meetings room's size which will double the maximum occupancy. The new meeting room has been thoughtfully designed to match the standards of other new libraries and will include new amenities such as an upgraded audio/visual system, a counter and sink to support functions, storage space for additional chairs and a connection to the exterior patio to allow for larger gatherings to take advantage of the extra outdoor space.

Question: How can the meeting room space be better incorporated into the reading patio? Can the doors be more open to the space, and can outlets be added for a monitor that can be used for overflow attendees?

Answer: Absolutely. We are always open to ideas that enhance the functionality and inclusivity of our spaces. We'll explore the feasibility of making the doors more accessible and adding outlets for audio-visual equipment to accommodate overflow attendees. Your input is invaluable in making this space work for everyone.

Question: What indigenous representation was active in the planning of this renovation?

Answer: We are committed to honoring and including indigenous voices in our planning process. Many Nations, a PCPL affinity group, was actively involved from the early stages of this renovation, ensuring that indigenous perspectives were woven into our plans.

Question: Why is the staff area a significant part of this renovation?

Answer: The staff area is crucial for several reasons. The Himmel branch supports a shared collection across 27 branches in the PCPL system. Many of our users rely on online hold pickups, which requires efficient behind-the-scenes processing. Our staff needs adequate space to manage this volume, and they also deserve a dedicated area to work privately and to recharge during their shifts. The size staff area is comparable to other libraries with similar circulation volumes. Our team's well-being is essential to the quality of service we provide to our community.

Question: How much does the library encroach into Himmel Park?

Answer: The library is expanding approximately 10-15 feet south and west of the current building's footprint. One of the goals of the project is to minimize expansion into the park areas to preserve those areas as open space for the public.

Question: What portion of the existing landscaping will remain and who will be responsible for the maintaining the landscaping? What types of landscape improvements are being made; is more shade being provided?

Answer: Pima County will acquire the footprint of the expanded building as well as the land to the north and east to the sidewalks and take over maintenance of the landscaping at the corner. The new landscaping will compliment the existing low water use landscaping while also addressing the stormwater issues that exist. The landscape design will include water harvesting, using low water use native plants, incorporating more shade trees and additional seating. Additionally, the Friends of Himmel Park will be engaged to discuss the existing landscape the continued development of landscape design.

Question/Comment: Request to add a second printer.

Answer: Team agreed to consider if this could be accommodated and will install infrastructure for future equipment at the least.

Question: Audience member asked if west parking lot could be more directly connected to the library entry.

Answer: Team responded that earlier in the process, and at first public meeting, we discussed solutions that reoriented entry closer to west lot. However, the overwhelming response from the public was to maintain existing east-facing entry location and avoid conflicts with heavy parking lot usage such as soccer games and Church events. New concrete sidewalks will be included in the project to provide a safe route to the east entry to the building.

Questions/Comment: A request was made to relocate and/or maintain access to equipment south of the library, specifically the lock box.

Answer: Any equipment within the area of work will be relocated to an agreeable location to provided continued access during the construction phase.

Question: A question was asked why the project couldn't be larger and possibly two stories.

Answer: Team responded that a) this would add significant cost, b) would require stairs and elevator, c) is not needed because the available land is sufficient and, d) would require additional library staff to supervise. The goal of the project is to keep the expansion of the library small to limit the encroachment into Himmel Park and maintain the library's "neighborhood" character that

makes the library so unique. Additionally, the project budget was based on the expansion size in the current design which is adequate to meet the project goals.