

## JPL 2021 ARCHITECTURAL FEASIBILITY STUDY COMMITTEE

### 1<sup>st</sup> MEETING October 14, 2021

Meeting called to order at JPL at 6:40 pm in the Jefferson Public Library basement meeting room.

16 committee members present, plus Architects Pete Franks and Ri Tobin of Franks Design Group.

ATTENDING: 18 Members

(see list below)

Jane Millard welcomed all and stated a couple of housekeeping items.

Pete Franks stated the end goal of hoping to see an expanded library in Jefferson in a couple of years. He asked each Study Committee Member to introduce themselves with a brief explanation of their community involvement (Long-term resident of Jefferson? Work in the area? Families familiar with the Library?)

Pete described how he began working with Jefferson on the Jefferson downtown facade project 6 years ago. His Glenwood Iowa based architectural firm primarily focuses on preservation projects.

Ri Tobin, Pete Franks co-worker/architect holds a Masters Degree with her thesis study on Community Development and Preservation, a case study in seven rural Nebraska communities.

Pete rejects the often-touted narrative that the Midwest is suffering from rural decline. Population alone is not a good measurement. Instead you need to look at number and sizes of households. Pete stated that he believes Jefferson is “really special” and a very robust community.

The Committee is charged with making decisions that will last for 50 more years (or longer). Every third generation is challenged with making large decisions. Our values will be projected to the community as we move forward with this process. Libraries have a profound impact on past and future generations.

Once the Committee completes the feasibility study, those recommendations will go to the Library Board of Trustees, City Council and to the public.

Two of this Study Committee members are high school students. Their input is invaluable as we work through what is important for the future of the Library.

Library Staff input is invaluable, as well as community members.

Philosophical discussion about libraries, redefining the “library”. It’s not just about square footage or space for the items in the Library’s collection, it’s more about what goes on within the walls of the Library. The Committee will be considering the ingredients list for Jefferson’s new Library. Buildings communicate what the community thinks of itself.

Consideration must be given to the historical original Carnegie Building built in 1904 AND the new addition of 1966. Both buildings, by architectural yardstick are historical buildings. Perceptions & Initial Observations: Our two buildings have adapted over time – and they will continue to do so in the next 50 years.

What's the worst outcome at the end of this Study? "Status quo". "No action". "Just build a storage shed."

We don't need more space for books. We need to consider work space for staff, people and community activities. Room for Children's, Teen's and Adult programs, Storage. Meeting space. Teen space. Adult reading space. Café? This project is not about walls & doors. It's more about how people want to use the building.

Dream "rainbows and unicorns". Develop your Wish List.

We can only dream what the future may hold for technology.

This recommendation will be a signal to the community that we value knowledge.

Brief discussion of rumored Wells Fargo building suitability, but first the Study Committee needs to define the vision for the Library.

Project goals:

- Accessible entry

- Elevator

- Space

- Expanded and more-connected programs (Children's, Teens & Adults)

1. Read the history of the Library on the Library's website: <https://www.jefferson.lib.ia.us/>
2. Pete challenged each Committee member to walk the perimeter and the inside of the Library and observe – (before the next meeting) and visit other libraries. Ask questions.
3. Watch for the Library's website launch of an ARCHITECTURAL STUDY COMMITTEE section for posting online the collection of meeting notes, media releases, reading 2018 George Lawson space needs assessment, etc.

Next meeting to be November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Jefferson Public Library. All future meeting dates and locations of this Committee will be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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ATTENDEES:

**Architect Pete Franks, Franks Design Group, Glenwood IA**

**Ri Toben, Architect, Franks Design Group, Glenwood IA**

Allee Hinote

Beth Vander Wilt

Carole Custer

Chad Stevens, City Bldg Official

Cindi Daubendiek via ZOOM

Connie Boyd

Craig Hertel via ZOOM

Gavin Vander Linden

Ginny Showman, Friends of Library

Jane Millard, Library Director

Jerry Roberts, Trustee

Jo Byriel, Library Administrative Assistant

Mary Pedersen

Stephanie Hall, Youth Librarian

Susan Laehn, Trustee

Tracy Deal

