

MINUTES  
of the  
Library Committee of the Board of Trustees  
Meeting with the Library Building Committee

The joint meeting of the two committees was held in Leigh House on Friday, July 26, 1957, at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Brown, chairman, Mr. Andres, Mr. Falk, Mrs. Nields, Mr. Fels, Mr. Brockway, and Miss Hopkins. Mr. Ruebhausen, Mr. Belluschi, Mr. Warren Peterson, Mr. Hideo Sasaki, Mrs. Leslie, Mr. Pike, and Miss Eason and Miss Bowman, secretaries, also met with the committees.

Absent: Mr. Tishman

Mr. Belluschi suggested that two possible sites which the architects have been considering be discussed briefly and that they then be inspected. He said that these sites, which he and Mr. Day had selected, and which Mr. Sasaki had independently thought the most desirable ones, are the location of the east parking lot and an area south of Cricket Hill. He said that he would propose a one-story building, about 140 feet wide and almost the same measurement in depth, for the latter site. This in his opinion is too large a building and, he added, it does not compose very well with the Barn. For the parking lot site preliminary plans for a split-level building have been developed. This, he said, would be somewhat smaller and more in scale with the other buildings on the campus. This building might, he thought, present some difficulties with respect to control.

Mr. Belluschi said he believed there would not be enough difference in cost between the two buildings to make this factor decisive, though he thought construction on the parking lot site might be somewhat cheaper. He estimated roughly that the cost of building garages to replace those in the parking lot would be between \$7,000 and \$8,000.

The view from either location would be good, Mr. Belluschi said.

Mr. Belluschi said that he and the other architects preferred the parking lot site. It adjoins classrooms, is near but not too close to the dormitories, and is on the way between. He said that if the building were built here he would propose a brick wall between it and the adjoining student house to keep out noise. He said that the other site is a little out of the way and will not compose very well visually with the rest of the campus.

Mr. Belluschi added that he would like to keep automobiles on the periphery of the campus and that Mr. Sasaki had suggested locating a parking lot and garages either to the east of the flag-pole circle or north of Commons building. He thought the relocation of garages now in the east parking lot should be regarded as a minor problem.



Mrs. Leslie asked whether a split-level arrangement would be necessary on the parking lot site. Mr. Belluschi said a two-floor building would be possible but architecturally less desirable because contact with the court would be lost from one of the floors. Mrs. Leslie said she thought the split-level feature would cause problems for those who worked in and used the library.

The sketches of proposed buildings for the two locations were examined and the sites inspected.

Mr. Ruebhausen asked which was more flexible for expansion. Mr. Peterson said either could be expanded by adding a wing, but this would be more difficult on the Cricket Hill site.

Mrs. Nields asked whether it would follow from locating the library in the east parking lot that the theatre must be in the west parking lot. Mr. Belluschi said not necessarily.

Mr. Belluschi said that another kind of building would be possible on the Cricket Hill site. If a two-story building were located there various relationships between the size of the two floors would be feasible. The present plan provides for a lower level about one quarter the size of the main floor.

Mr. Belluschi said that he hoped the committee could decide between the two sites and then, if the parking lot location were chosen, decide whether the steps up and down from the entrance area now proposed are unacceptable. He said there is a conflict between what is architecturally better and what is most convenient for those who will be working in the library.

Commenting on possible compromises to diminish the problem of three levels Mr. Belluschi said the distance up to the upper level might be less than that to the lower level and that a ramp might be used instead of steps to the upper level. Miss Hopkins said she had been advised against the use of ramps by librarians who had had experience with them. Mr. Fels suggested that the service desk, now on the intermediate level, might instead be on the upper level so that part of the library would be reached from the desk without going up or down steps.

Mr. Belluschi said he would like to leave the plans with the committee for further consideration. His suggestion would be to change the parking lot site plan to de-emphasize the upper rise, unless the committee is ready to decide to go ahead with the parking lot site as proposed or wants a two-story building on the Cricket Hill site. He added that if the problem of the split level is to be explored further he would like to know more precisely what should go below and what above.

Reference was made to the concern felt by the librarians and by members of the faculty about the disturbance of noise from dormitories at the parking lot site. Mr. Belluschi said he had no fear about this and was confident that the wall proposed would be a



sufficient sound break.

Mr. Ruebhausen asked about locating the library further to the east on the Cricket Hill site. Mr. Belluschi said he thought this would be hard to justify visually or on the basis of convenience.

There was discussion of the schedule for the construction of the building. Mr. Belluschi said the earliest date for starting would be in April 1958. If this is to be done only about two months can be allowed for preliminary drawings and only about five months for working drawings. This is a tight schedule for working drawings, he said. Mr. Belluschi added that if work can begin in April the building should be under cover by winter. He said he would think it risky to start as late as June.

Messrs. Belluschi, Peterson, and Sasaki left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Andres said he would be in favor of accepting the recommendation that the building be built on the east parking lot, requiring that the architects make adjustments which would satisfy the criticisms.

Mr. Fels said he agreed with Mr. Andres, but, he added, the necessity for a librarian at the service desk to go eight steps up or down to reach any book will have to be corrected. Otherwise, he said, he liked the plans for the parking lot area and found the arguments of the architects convincing.

Mr. Brockway said the principal objection of the faculty committee to the parking lot site was its closeness to the campus, with attendant noise. He added that he doubted that the proposed wall would screen out the noise adequately. He said also that members of the faculty favor moving out in our big space rather than clustering all the buildings closely together. Mr. Brockway concluded, however, by saying that he found the proposed building for the parking lot location appealing.

Mrs. Brown said she found the Cricket Hill space narrower and more crowded than she had expected.

Miss Hopkins said she is worried about noise at the parking lot site, where the building would be surrounded by roadways. Also she said that, while a split-level building would probably be very attractive, she thought it would not provide a good place in which to work. She added that a completely two-story building might be better than one with an intermediate level. She said she would like to consult people who have had experience with libraries arranged in this way.

Mrs. Leslie said she was not completely satisfied with either site and worried about noise at the east parking lot.

Mr. Ruebhausen said he felt -- little unsure about the estimate that the cost of the two buildings would be approximately the same.

Mr. Andres asked whether those who know about the noise on the campus consider that Mr. Belluschi is in error in thinking this problem has been solved. Miss Hopkins mentioned that Mr. Belluschi had not been on the campus when the College was in session.

Mr. Ruebhausen said the dilemma of accessibility worried him. If the library is placed in the traffic pattern it is too close to other buildings and he does not know whether it must be located in this way if it is to be used.

Mrs. Niels said it seemed to her our objections -- to road and living noise and to the split-level -- still stand, against what looks like an extremely pleasant building which satisfies the architects.

Mr. Andres said he thought the only important objection is to noise, and we do not know how serious this is. He pointed out that the building stretches away from the student houses, with only one short wall facing a student house. He added that he thinks our architects could solve the level problem so as to satisfy our operating needs.

Mr. Fels said he did not think the problem of noise sufficient to cause us to reject the parking lot site. He added that we must take into consideration that the architects are persuaded the parking lot site is good.

Mrs. Brown said she did not think the Cricket Hill site as attractive as the other and that she was optimistic about the finding of a solution to the level problem.

Mr. Ruebhausen said his instinct is against the parking lot site, though he doesn't feel strongly about it. He said he thought it would be hard to defend to students and faculty. He said he would favor telling Mr. Belluschi that we think the plan for the parking lot site is excellent in many ways but we are worried about it for the reasons expressed here. He would ask Mr. Belluschi to see if he couldn't do as well on Cricket Hill. He added that he thinks we are interested in the parking lot in large part because the architects are enthusiastic, but that practical considerations point to Cricket Hill.

Mr. Brockway asked whether we could tell Mr. Belluschi what we object to about his Cricket Hill plan. It was agreed that it is too crowded and the building is too big.

Mrs. Niels said she would favor the parking lot site if the level problem could be solved. Mr. Andres said he would take a chance on the noise and agree on that site. Mr. Fels said he would agree also, but that the present split-level arrangement would have to be altered. Mr. Falk said he wanted to ask the architects to try again on Cricket Hill location. Mrs. Niels and Mrs. Brown said they



would also like to ask the architects to try again on the Cricket Hill location. Mr. Andres said he would agree, but that he would want Mr. Belluschi to know our thinking in full and to be told that this is an expression of our worries and not a final rejection of the parking lot plan.

Mrs. Leslie said she thought it would be very helpful if Mr. Belluschi could see the College in action.

It was agreed that Mrs. Brown should telephone Mr. Belluschi on Monday, July 29, telling him that there is considerable resistance to the parking lot site for practical reasons, especially noise, and that the committee would favor Cricket Hill instead if he could design a building not so big and not quite so crowded in. She should say also that the committee likes his proposal for the parking lot site very much but hopes he can become interested in the other location and do something for it that will appeal to us as much. Also, that it is considered desirable for Mr. Belluschi to visit the College while it is in session. Mrs. Brown was also asked to confirm this conversation in a letter to Mr. Belluschi, sending a copy of it to Mr. Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

SIGNED CHARLOTTE BOWMAN  
Secretary