

Quincy Public Library Proposed Renovation Project

History of Quincy Public Library Building Project

In 2005, The Quincy Public Library board contracted with Library Building Consultant Fred Schlipf to determine the current and future needs of the Library. As the result of a year long study, with input from the public and Library board members and staff, a 245 page report was compiled. The report outlined the current needs of the Library and proposed possible changes. The initial report indicated that based on the size of the community and recommended standards for libraries, the Quincy Public Library should have 60,000 square feet. It was also recommended that the Library build new rather than renovate because it would be more cost effective. The Library Board determined that the resulting \$18 million project was unrealistic for the Quincy community. The Board formed a Building Committee to prioritize the most pressing needs of the Library, and to create a renovation project that would address those needs. Architectural firm Poepping, Stone, Bach & Associates was hired to create a building proposal. Poepping, Stone, Bach & Associates presented architectural plans that would include renovation of the current Library and Annex and an addition to join the buildings. The plans ranged in cost from \$11 million to \$15 million. These plans were again rejected by the board based on costs.

The Quincy Public Library learned of the possibility of obtaining Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds in July of 2009. These bonds are more cost-effective than standard bonds, saving approximately \$400,000 in interest charges over the life of the bond. With this information, the Board reviewed the building needs and priorities once again to fit the budget of \$6,483,000 that could possibly be available.

The final priorities outlined by the board and staff were as follows: Off-street Parking; Relocating Children's Department to 1st floor with a single Circulation Desk, and New HVAC.