

Library to decide design concept

By REGAN TUTTLE Editor | Posted: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 12:00 am

The Norwood Public Library's board of directors sought public comment in August on three different library design concepts for a new library to be constructed on a 12-acre site on San Miguel Street.

The land was purchased in 2012 and was fully paid for in 2014. After exploring potential building partnerships and conducting a feasibility study, the library board is now ready to finalize the plans.

Norwood Public Library Director Carrie Andrew said the comments the board has received the last few months are contradictory and that the board is not clear on the design they must now select.

All public input was recently shared with Chris Enderson at the University Technical Assistance Program at the Colorado Center for Community Development through University of Colorado Denver. Enderson has been hired for the design of the new library.

Enderson has now submitted two new library concept designs to Andrew and the board, and it's again time for the public to give feedback.

"What does the community want?" Andrew is asking. "We want to know before we move forward with one plan."

Design A has a large community meeting space. Andrew said that in the library's feasibility study, approximately 70 people were interviewed. According to her, the number one need that folks expressed was more and larger meeting space for the community.

"And we answered that need by building it into this plan," Andrew said. "Because people asked for a place for company Christmas parties, volunteer celebrations, open fair, holiday bazaars, 4-H awards banquets, prom, family reunions, wedding receptions — these things came up — and holding professional conferences and more CSU-Extension Office classes."

Andrew said Design A offers a space that is larger than what's available at the current library or Livery, and is also smaller and more contained than Norwood School's all-purpose room.

Design A comes with a warming kitchen, one that is not commercial, but can be used for catering events or teaching a cooking or canning class.

Andrew said she prefers Design A.

"I feel like it's what I've heard people say, and there are so many things we can do as a library. It has the capability of hosting three events at once."

Andrew said she feels it's imperative to build for the future. She also said it's more cost-effective to create the library the community wants now, rather than add on later.

Design B cannot accommodate as many patrons, and it has no kitchen. Andrew said Design B has a more traditional-sized meeting space and in total has 900 square feet less than the first option.

“Ultimately the library board will decide, but we want our community to have feedback,” Andrew said.

The plans are on display at Norwood Public Library, along with comment cards for leaving feedback. The public can make suggestions online through the library’s website and can call or email the library board through Nov. 6.

The library board’s next meeting is Nov. 9, and Andrew said she hopes to then move forward with the finalized design concept.