

Newton Public Library Planning Process Timeline - July 2018 Update

- South Central Kansas Library System (SCKLS) Director/Consultant Paul Hawkins, conducted Newton Public Library Board and Staff interviews in March & April 2006 to assess library needs for the future - *“Newton Public Library: Past, Present and Future: Board and Staff Needs Assessment Report, May 2006.”*
- August 3, 2006 SCKLS Consultants Larry Papenfuss and Paul Hawkins held a community session on current and future technology needs for the library - *“Newton Public Library Technology Brainstorming Session Findings”* August 8, 2006.
- SCKLS Consultant Paul Hawkins conducted community young adult focus group - *“Young Adult Focus Group Responses, August 2006.”*
- August 27, 2007 NPL Board hired consulting architect Hans J. Fischer and engineer Myron C Reed as planning process consultants.
- *“Building Assessment of the Newton Public Library”* presented by consultants Hans J. Fischer and Myron C. Reed, May 19, 2008 to NPL Board.
- The Fischer/Reed NPL assessment documents and Wray Roofing letter about NPL roof system were included in the 2009 NPL Budget packet presented to the City
- September 17, 2008 on-site schematic design workshop moderated by Hans J. Fischer and Myron C. Reed with representatives of City Commission and staff, library staff, trustees and members of the general public. Results: *“Schematic Plans for Renovation & Expansion of the Newton Public Library”* December 2008.
- USD 373, Harvey County, City of Newton & Newton Public Library Parking Summit, hosted by NPL, April 22, 2009.
- Newton City Commission Work Session, with NPL Board at NPL April 28, 2009. Public invited to NPL Board presentation of the findings from the public assessments and a schematic plan was presented to the City Commission. (Distributed *History of the Newton Public Library Planning Process* with *Newton Public Library Case Statement* and showed slides about NPL and needs assessment.) Upon Commissioner Ken Hall questioning the location of library facility in Military Park, the Mayor appointed a City-Library Task Force to investigate/review other possible downtown locations for the library. Task Force members: James Nickel, City Commissioner; Ken Hall, City commissioner; Tim Johnson, Asst. City Manager; Suzanne Loomis, City Engr./Dir. Public Works; Robert Grant, Newton Public Library Board President; Monty Fey, Newton Public Library Board, Treas./Facility Chair; Marianne Eichelberger, Library Director.
- City-Library Task Force met May 8, 2009. Ken Hall could not attend the meeting and said to proceed without him. Other locations were reviewed, including former Axtell Hospital and south Dillons.
- May 20, 2009 Memo to City Commission was presented May 26, 2009: *Newton Public Library Renovation and Expansion - DESIGN PHASE*. Included City-Library Task Force Findings and Recommendations: *“Approve use of Military Park for library expansion; direct City staff to send out RFP’s for architectural services for the library renovation and expansion design phase with possibility of developing construction plans; and, assign a Commissioner to be a member of the Library Design Phase Task Force composed of representatives of City staff, Library Board, library director and other Newton Public Library public appointments.”*
- May 29, 2009 second Parking Summit arranged by County Administrator Craig Simons. Area business representatives were added to the participants.
- June 9, 2009, City Commission approved use of Military Park for the expansion of NPL, for NPL to enter the design phase of the proposed expansion and City staff directed to prepare request for proposals.
- August 3, 2009, City Engineer Suzanne Loomis distributed letter requesting proposals for a design concept of a library expansion project. Ten proposals were received. September 2, NPL Project Review Committee (NPL Board reps Monty Fey & Bob Grant, Suzanne Loomis - City, Byron Warta - citizen, Marianne Eichelberger - Library Director) interviewed four architectural firms and selected Gossen Livingston with Holzheimer Bolek + Meehan.
- August 26, 2009, Library Director participated in the Northeast Kansas Library System tour of 10 libraries of various sizes.

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- August 27, 2009, Library Director participated in SCKLS X8 (Major Service Center I library directors) meeting and tour of Haysville Public Library new facility which opened in July.
- September 14, 2009 NPL Board approved contract with Gossen Livingston Associates, subject to final review by Library Director, City Engineer and City Attorney, with contract not to exceed \$125,000.
- September 22, 2009, City Commissioner James Nickel volunteered to be on the Library Design Task Force. September 23 Concept Design Phase kick-off meeting with architects Kirk Jurgensen (GL) and Dan Meehan (HB+M). September 24, architects interviewed NPL staff. October 19, NPL staff completed questionnaire from Meehan. Six public focus groups were held October 20 and 22. November 3, 2009, Meehan distributed summary and compilation of focus groups and staff questionnaire. November 20, 2009, A/E consultants performed on-site evaluations.
- November 19, 2009, NPL Board and Staff toured new Haysville, Derby, and Haysville public libraries and recently remodeled McPherson Public Library.
- December 2009, architects presented three concept diagrams for addition / remodel solutions and a 4th diagram for a new facility. Some reasons they recommended a new facility to the Task Force: projected cost for a new facility would be the same, or less than, an addition / remodel; without need to relocate library resources and services during building process; and, it would eliminate concern about various issues with current facility structure. NPL Board decided to move forward with the concept design for a new facility.
- January 14, 2010, Dan Meehan presented latest NPL concept design to NPL Board and staff. Concept Design was presented to City Commission at February 23, 2010 work session and to the public February 24, 2010.
- Spring 2010, Library Director and Monty Fey gave presentations to various groups, Harvey County Commission and North Newton City Council about NPL and the Concept Design.
- June 22, 2010, Monty Fey presented request for City Commission to approve moving forward with next phases of the NPL facility project through development of the construction documents. City administration added NPL's request to fund the next phases of the NPL facility project through development of the constructions documents to the NPL 2011 proposed budget. July 13, City Commission instructed City staff to remove the funds from the 2011 budget and place the NPL project on hold. August 10, Mayor Willis Heck met with Library Director about presenting the NPL facility project for consideration during the 2012 budget process.
- July 13, 2010, brainstorming session held with New Boston Creative Group, City, NPL Board and staff representatives on what next steps might be in telling the NPL story and vision for the future.
- October 11, 2010, NPL Board accepted marketing research and discovery proposal from New Boston Creative Group. New Boston held two focus group meetings November 16 & 17, one group to represent a broad spectrum of the community and one to target adults between 18-40 years.
- November 19, 2010, NPL staff met to brainstorm what is "Plan B:" what to do in the mid-term to address public needs since plans for facility project were on hold.
- January 10, 2011, received New Boston Creative Group "*A Report on Public Perceptions Regarding a New Library Facility.*"
- May 2011, GLMV compiled architectural/structural, mechanical, plumbing and electrical issues bullet list with timeline and estimated costs were presented to the City Commission with the other 2012 NPL Budget documents: November 2009 *Visual Condition Assessment Report* by Professional Engineering Consultants, P.A. and *Structural Condition Assessment Newton Public Library* by DWA Structural Engineers; and, "Estimate of Probable Construction Cost for Correcting Building Deficiencies" section of the *Building Assessment of the Newton Public Library Report* compiled by Hans J. Fischer, AIA and Myron C. Reed, P.E. May 2008. NPL Board requested the City Commission approve \$100,000 non-library mill to build capital improvement reserves for library building deficiencies. The request was not included in the 2012 City budget.
- April 4, 2011, at the direction of the NPL Board, NPL Board member Barth Hague organized a NPL marketing committee composed of community members who had expertise in marketing field and NPL public relations staff.

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- June 22, 2011, at the recommendation of the Marketing Committee, NPL Board approved The Research Partnership proposal for conducting a quantitative NPL research project in the Newton community. The survey was conducted via telephone and explored perceptions of NPL and its services. Survey of 403 residents was conducted October 15 - November 15. The results were presented to the NPL Board and Marketing Committee on January 16, 2012.
- *City Capital Improvement Program 2011-2015* presented at the October 11, 2011 City Commission work session listed highest ranked projects which included proposed NPL projects: small air handler - 2011, design library expansion - 2013, and library expansion with parking lot - year unknown.
- June 1, 2012, NPL 2013 proposed budget was presented at City Commission budget work session, highlighting facility concerns and need for plans for next steps. Holding a bond election on a new library was suggested by some Commissioners.
- July 10, 2012, NPL Board hosted City Commission work session: tour of facility issues with Kirk Jurgensen - GLMV; review of the NPL planning process and development of concepts for the new facility with Dan Meehan - HBM; NPL marketing survey results - Barth Hague; and, discussed bond issue vote requirements/cost/plans/ timeline/etc.
- August 8, 2012, met with Harvey County Farmers Market representatives about having market facility as part of the library/park project.
- September 8, 2012, NPL Board met with City staff to discuss the future of the library facility; clarification on funding for informational campaign; time frame; estimated tax per household for the project; and, methods to inform the community about library project prior to ballot initiative.
- August - December 2012, information was gathered and contacts made with other libraries and consultants about planning a community initiative/referendum. All noted for a campaign to be successful, there needs to be elected officials who will champion the initiative.
- June 7, 2013, NPL Board members Pat Duffy, Ann Adrian and Joe Loganbill spoke to the City Commission during the 2014 Budget Work Session about NPL facility needs. Commission noted receiving letters/contacts from residents in support of a new library. Moving forward with the next steps in planning for a new facility, as listed in the City capital improvement plans, was not included in 2014 budget.
- A NPL Staff Development Day was held at SCKLS on August 16, 2013. SCKLS Director Paul Hawkins led sessions on library services, goal setting and brainstorming about reconfiguring the existing library space to meet service needs.
- November 4, 2013, a NPL Board & Staff retreat was held to discuss planning next steps for NPL with SCKLS Director as meeting facilitator. The “My Ideal Library for 2014” and “Ideal Library for the Future” Staff Development Day notes and 2013 NPL Goals and Plan of Action were reviewed to begin developing a draft of 2014 Goals. Some projects to replace worn chairs, install additional electrical outlets for patrons, and develop creativity space were underway at the end of 2013.
- NPL Board and staff researched ways to revitalize the interior appearance, provide additional seating and meeting/creative/technology maker spaces. NPL staff shifted and rearrange collections to open more space in Adult and Youth Service areas.
- September 2014, NPL Board discussed facility updates to provide additional creative spaces and ways to market NPL current and possible future services. Regier Construction was contacted about furnishings reconfiguration possibilities for Adult/YA Services area.
- December 2014, a floor plan for rearranged Adult/YA Services area was received from Regier Construction. Cost estimates for the project were presented to the NPL Board March 9, 2015.
- March and July 2015, discussions were held with Grand Central, Meals on Wheels and USD 373 representatives to explore program and facility collaboration. Peace Connections expressed interest in future talks about collaborative space.
- April 3, 2015, a major portion of the NPL roof over the original building, vents and computer room air conditioning unit were blown off during a storm which resulted in interior damage due to water, etc. NPL was closed to the public for 5 days and then 4 days with limited access to lower level, followed by months of restoration projects. City approved replacing the entire roof over the original building, which

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was completed April 23, 2015. Regier Construction replaced 191 ceiling tiles, south window area counters and two stacks cork end caps. Living Rooms by Gayle installed new window shades and installed new floor tile in Bessmer hall and restroom. (Water infiltration continues to appear on first and lower level interior ceiling tiles, walls, windows, and floors into 2018.)

- During restoration breaks, NPL Staff discussed possible rearrangement of Adult / YA Services to allow for an enclosed meeting/creative/technology maker space; use of Genealogy and Bessmer rooms; and, creating other flexible spaces in Youth Services. Outcomes included adding strip of outlets, new adjustable tables and a high table in Adult Services alcove and table and seating rearrangements and new DUPLO table in Youth Services.
- August 2015, NPL's 2010 concept design architect Dan Meehan provided information on a variety of successful collaborative library facilities they developed. Library Director met with Regier Construction to review Adult Services concept design shelving count.
- November 13, 2015, NPL Board representatives met with City Commissioner Barth Hague to discuss NPL Flexible Makerspace and Facility next steps.
- December 10, 2015, NPL Board President, Library Director and Hague met with Vera Bothner, Bothner and Bradley, Inc. a communication and consulting firm, about public relations strategies for NPL.
- January 8, 2016, NPL Board President and Library Director met with Wichita Public Library Foundation Board member Mark Chamberlin, Armstrong Chamberlin, to discuss possible strategies for NPL and WPL's campaign for a new library.
- January 2016, installed a new wireless server to improved network connections for patrons who used their own devices inside NPL to access resources, conduct business, study, etc.
- January 2016 - March 2017, NPL Board and Staff read the Aspen Institute *Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries* (Oct. 2014). NPL Board and staff representative held sessions to work through the *Action Guide for Re-Envisioning Your Public Library* (Version I, January 2016) activities.
- September 23, 2016, a combined Re-Envisioning and continuing education opportunity was held for NPL staff and board members as part of NPL 130th anniversary celebration. They toured 2016 remodeled Winfield Public Library, the new Mulvane Public Library and Derby Public Library which opened in 2009. During the visits they discussed each library's resources, services and programs offered, procedures and policies, along with their planning process which resulted in new or remodeled facilities.
- January 26, 2017, NPL Board President and Library Director toured Topeka Shawnee County Public Library including their maker space and new teen room, and ongoing remodeling plans.
- April 16, 2017, Board and staff representatives watched and discussed the Demco "Libraries = Education: Your Key to Success" webinar, presented by Valerie Gross, Howard County Library System President & CEO. Most of the NPL staff and two Board members attended the October 25 Kansas Library Pre-Conference presented by Gross and her keynote session. The strategies recommended are being implemented as part of NPL's Re-Envisioning plan.
- May 5, 2017, NPL Board President Pat Duffy met with Newton Mayor Barth Hague to give an update on the planning process and summary of the Re-Envisioning work session findings.
- August 31, 2017, NPL Board representatives and Library Director met with Newton Mayor Hague, City Manager Bob Myers, Public Works Director Suzanne Loomis and Community Planning & Development Director Kelly Bergeron to discuss Re-Envisioning findings and next steps. City Manager proposed establishing a NPL Visioning Task Force of community representatives.
- November 21, 2017 NPL Board President and Library Director met with USD 373 Superintendent Deborah Hamm to share about NPL re-envisioning process next step, such as a possible task force formed by the City and exploring new ways to collaborate.
- November 28, 2017, NPL Board President Ann Adrian sent to the City Manager the "Re-Envisioning Newton Public Library - Why does this matter?" pamphlet and a list of suggested NPL Visioning Task Force members.
- December 12, 2017, NPL Board approved NPL new mission and vision statements: **Mission:** *To be a cornerstone in the lifelong learning process for each member of the Newton community and a key component in Newton's education system. NPL delivers equal access and opportunities for all.* **Vision Statement:** *Newton Public Library is a*

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community pillar of education, advancing the economy and quality of life. The 21st Century Newton Public Library is the family room of the community, alive with people from all walks of life engaging in self-directed learning, research, enlightening experiences, and enjoyment through books, e-resources and other materials. The Library serves as a place that provides assistance and instruction to its community members. The impact of a strong library in the community strengthens the lifestyle and education of individuals, families, businesses, and government.

- January 10, 2018, NPL Board President met with City Commissioner Barth Hague to get an update on his meeting with City Manager Bob Myers about next steps for NPL.
- January 17, 2018, NPL Board President and Library Director met with Val Gleason, Newton Medical Center President and CEO, to discuss support and partnership opportunities.
- January 23, 2018, NPL Board reps and Director toured Topeka Shawnee County Public Library and discussed TSCPL remodel process/plans.
- April 10, 2018, City Commission approved authorizing “the City Manager, in cooperation with library leadership, to appoint members to the task force.” April 18, NPL Board President and Library Director met with City Manager Myers to discuss Newton Public Library Visioning Task Force composition, reviewing City suggested list of members.
- April 30, 2018, NPL Board member, Library Director and USD 373 NHS Media Specialist attended SCKLS “School Redesign and My Library” workshop on public/school libraries collaboration.
- July 16, 2018, City Manager Myers organized the first Newton Public Library Visioning Task Force meeting at the new Wichita Advanced Learning Library. Wichita Public Library Director Cynthia Berner discussed the WPL planning process and led a tour of the new facility highlighting resources and services.



Action Guide for Re-Envisioning Your Public Library - 1 People

Activity 3

- A community is a network of many interconnected relationships. Consider the library as one node on the community relationships, and not necessarily at the center. How would you design a diagram (drawing of sorts) representing the many relationships among the audiences in our community?

