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# Great Communities Build Great s

AUG 2020

## A Great Staff

*Megan Walters is used to change. Between kindergarten and her senior year, she went to 10 different schools, including two years of high school at the International School Bangkok in Thailand.*

However, no amount of experience with change would have prepared her for how she had to pivot as the Director of the Library five months ago.

It was on Wednesday, March 11 that it became clear to her that the Coronavirus was bigger than anyone imagined. Megan and a few Library Trustees were meeting with the Chester County Commissioners to update them on the new library project, but the conversation kept going back to the virus.

As she waited for direction to come from the Chester County Library System, she quickly mobilized her staff. She decided to close the building on Monday, March 16, until further notice, but, until then, the library would serve as many customers as they could. Saturday, March 14, was one of the busiest days the library has had. It was



like the public realized they were going to be house-bound for a while, and they all wanted to stock up on reading material, she said.

What she didn't know was that the library would be closed for several months and everyone needed to learn a new way of working. Zoom meetings began, along with online programming, Facebook Live story times. Megan began working with other non-profit Executive Directors in Kennett Square to serve the community at-large.

She quickly realized that if anyone wanted to access the online services of the Chester County Library System, they would need a library card — a process that had to be done in

person. In just a few hours, she and her staff created an online application which would allow anyone to quickly get a library card, their key to all of the online eBooks and eAudiobooks. Working with the Adult Literacy Program staff, the library staff began holding classes online. Further, while the Library was closed, staff sorted the library's books, putting some into paper bags, stapling them shut and leaving them in front of the library for the public to pick up and keep.

I think we really stepped up in a big way. We made sure we had something for everyone that kept people engaged, Megan said.

As of this writing, the library has reopened for browsing and limited computer use. Everyone entering the library must wear a mask and must remain six-feet apart from other patrons.

Megan, who has her Master's in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Alabama, said her favorite part of the job is knowing that she and the library staff are making a difference in people's lives. Whether it is helping someone find a book for entertainment or helping someone complete a job application who is not very comfortable on the computer.

When asked what she was most excited about when it comes to the new library, Megan said, I'm excited about the possibilities that the new library has to offer. There are so many cool things being planned, and it's fun to think about all of the programs we can host and the services that we can offer.

*Whether it is helping someone find a book for entertainment or helping someone complete a job application who is not very comfortable on the computer.*

# A Great Project

*We asked Brad Peiper, Library Trustee and chair of the New Building Committee to give us an update on the new building:*

The design of the new library is based on what the Trustees heard the community wanted at meetings held early in the design process. Foremost on their list was for the library to be accessible to all residents, with free on-site parking. They also asked for wide open spaces with lots of natural light and several meeting rooms. It needs to be a place where people can socialize and come together for a variety of reasons — in other words, the community's living room.

With these goals in mind, we asked the architects to put pencil to paper, and their current design certainly delivers. We have an outstanding architectural design that creates a



spectacular building with a bright open airy feel; large windows that welcome the natural light; two elevators to get everyone to both floors of the library; and an auditorium to offer book and poetry readings, TED-X talks, movie nights and community meetings, among other things.

At this point, the schematic design is complete and the project team is in the process of completing the final design-development phase, which specifically spells out floor plans and exterior and interior finishes. The final design and cost estimates will be completed

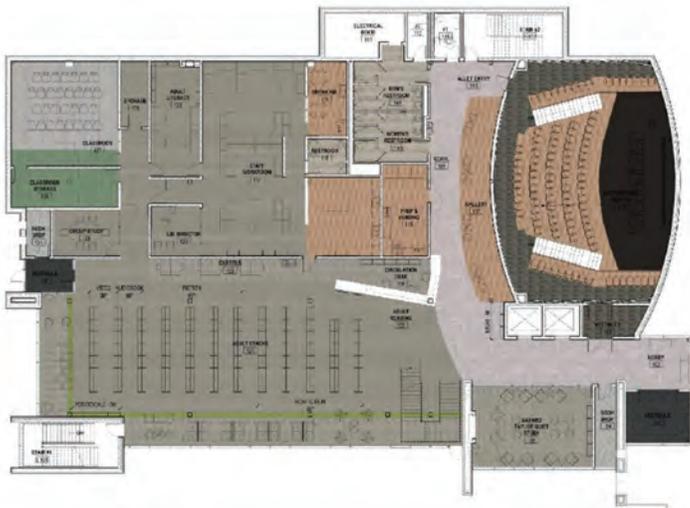
at the end of September. These plans will be presented to the Board of Trustees to review and value engineer the

project to most cost effectively serve our community.

Upon Board approval, the next step is to prepare the construction documents that will go out to the various trade contractors and builders. If all goes according to the current plan, construction could begin next summer.

The New Building Committee is constantly balancing quality and cost in a way that achieves the overall project goal and timeline. The goal is to maximize the value we are getting for the community.

But at the end of the day, as excited and as passionate as we are about this new building, it is just a building, a structure. The most important thing about this project is how it and our staff serve our community. My personal goal is that this library will evolve and serve for the next 100 years.



## Kennett Library Project Team

**Lead Architect:** RRMM, Inc., Arlington VA

**Local Architect:** Dennis Melton, Melton Architects

**Civil Engineer:** Register Associates, Kennett Square, PA

**Construction Management:** EDiS, Wilmington, DE

**LEED Consultants:** breea

**Attorney:** Joseph G. Riper of Riper Hollin Colagreco

## What and Where

The new Library will have 14 meeting/gathering room spaces with an additional 110-seat Auditorium. The library will be handicap accessible and have on-site free parking, along with state of the art of computer connectivity.

### FIRST FLOOR

- Bayard Taylor Quiet Study Room
- Adult Stacks/Reading Area
- Group Study Room
- Classroom
- Auditorium

### SECOND FLOOR

- Quiet Study Room
- Children's Stacks/Reading Area
- Young Adult Stacks/Reading Area
- Adult Maker Space
- Four Tutor Rooms
- Children's Maker/Program Space
- Classroom
- Two Multi-Purpose Rooms
- Young Adult Group Study

### MAKER SPACE ACTIVITIES

- Adult and Teens
- 3-D Printer
- Large Format Printer
- Large Format Scanner
- Laser Engraver
- Computer Stations
- Photography Station with Green Backdrop Screen and Lighting Kit
- Sewing/Embroidery Machines
- Vinyl Cutter
- Heat Transfer press
- Button Maker

### CHILDREN MAKER/ INSPIRATION SPACE

- Technology (Robotics, 3-D Printing, Circuit Building, LED Lights, Computers and Software)
- Discovery (Lego/Walls, Gizmos and Gadgets, Spero Robots, MakeyMakey)
- Arts & Crafts (Green Screen, Photography, Cardboard Corner, Glue Gun, Art Supplies)

# Great Trustee: *Brad Peiper*



After many years as a library volunteer, Brad Peiper was appointed by Pocopson Township to represent their residents on the Library's Board of Trustees in 2016. In early 2020 he was elected Vice President. Brad has chaired the Adult Literacy Program (ALP), represented the Kennett Library on the Systems Advisory Council, a forum within the Chester County Library System that solicits ideas and actions to continually improve the quality of service to all the patrons; and most recently, he was appointed Chair of the New Building Committee. In this role, Brad has dedicated hundreds of hours to the design and development of the new building.

He graciously gives credit to the numerous volunteers who serve on the NBC with him, but the passion and focus of that committee starts at the top. Brad keeps the committee on track with monthly meetings, complete with timeline charts for the design-development, ground-breaking, building, fundraising and, finally, the grand opening. Brad's project detail keeps all of us updated on the smallest change or ripple.

Brad's love of libraries started at a young age when he lived in a farming community near Carlisle, PA. "I have always enjoyed books, both the entertainment and self-learning opportunities, that they afford," he said. Adding, "In my hometown, I was excited to visit St. Patrick's Elementary School 'Library Wall' in my early years followed by later visits to Carlisle's Bosler Free Library, Dickinson College Library and the State Library of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg."

He and his wife Marina live in the Beversrede Development and have two adult children who live in North Carolina and Oregon.

Brad worked for 36 years with the DuPont Company and retired a few years ago. Lucky, for the library, he now has a full-time volunteer job overseeing the new building project.

## New Library Projected Timeline

**November 2017:** Contract signed with RRMM/Lukmire Architects

**December 2018:** Schematic design approved (at \$15M project cost estimate)

**October 2019:** Purchase completed of "3-lot" State & Willow Street property for new Library

**January 2020:** Contract signed with EDiS as project construction manager AND design development phase initiated

**February 2020:** LEED integrated into project work plan

**July 2020:** Kennett Borough Council issues "Certificate of Approval" for design

**October 2020:** Construction document phase begins

**March 2021:** Sub-Contractor bidding and selection initiated

**July 2021:** Groundbreaking and construction begins

**Late 2022–Early 2023:** Library opens!



*Libraries and everything they stand for have never been more important than they are today. We welcome, we enrich, we educate and we help our community to move forward. Now is the time to put this cornerstone in place for future generations.*

–Collis Townsend, Chair of the Capital Campaign Committee



*As the President of the Board of Trustees, I am proud of how the library staff and my fellow Trustees stepped up during the last few months that have been challenging for everybody. I am so honored to lead this organization and am so excited for the future of this library.*

–Jeff Yetter, President, Board of Trustees

## Donate

For questions about making a donation or volunteering for the campaign please email Mary Hutchins, Campaign Associate at [mary@kennettlibrary.org](mailto:mary@kennettlibrary.org) or go to [campaign4kennettlibrary.org](http://campaign4kennettlibrary.org)

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