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Marinelli, Lynn

From: north-buffalo-library-planning-committee@googlegroups.com on behalf of Bradley K Hamm


Sent: Fri 3/25/2011 2:29 PM

To: north-buffalo-library-planning-committee@googlegroups.com

Cc:

Subject: {NBLBC} Library Position Paper - Version 3.0!

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Attachments:  [Library-Position-Paper.docx\(18KB\)](#)

Hello everyone,

Attached is the latest draft of our position paper. I tried to whittle it down to one page, but it was difficult. Let me know what you think. You won't hurt my feelings by suggesting additions/deletions/corrections, etc.

Overall, I hope I captured the tone of what the group wants.

Have a good weekend!

-Brad

From: LM
To: CE

Position Paper – North Buffalo Library Long-Range Planning Committee

History

The North Buffalo Library Long-Range Planning Committee (hereafter “the Committee”) came into existence as the result of shared concern over the provision of library services in North Buffalo. The Committee is a loosely affiliated grassroots group made up of citizens, community leaders, block clubs/civic organizations, the director of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Libraries, members of the Library Board of Directors, and representatives from the offices of local elected officials.

Until recently, the North Buffalo Community had two branches of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System (hereafter “Library System”). One branch was at Fairfield and Amherst Streets, the other at the corner of Delaware and Hertel Avenues. Both of these branches are now closed. To compensate for this loss of services, the Library System recently opened a smaller branch in rental space in the K-Mart Plaza off of Hertel Avenue. While it is heavily used, this space is a temporary rather than a permanent facility (the lease on the space is currently for a period of five years).

Mayor Byron W. Brown has indicated that as it pertains to library services in North Buffalo, he will act on what the community desires. The Committee has tasked itself with determining if the community desires a permanent library branch in North Buffalo, and if so, where they would like it to be and what type of services they would like to see provided. More recently, the Committee has also committed to reaching out to the community at large to raise awareness about library services in North Buffalo.

Community Profile

North Buffalo is a lively residential neighborhood with a healthy mix of retail, manufacturing, and educational facilities. North Buffalo is made up of stable, middle class neighborhoods, making it a prime residential area. Real estate is highly desirable and sells quickly. The residents of North Buffalo are ethnically and culturally diverse, as evidenced by the restaurants on Hertel Avenue, which include Italian, Lebanese, Kosher, and Islamic specialties.

The area is also home to a variety of both locally-owned retail businesses and restaurants as well as nationally recognized “big box” retailers. North Buffalo also has many small manufacturing businesses. Many older factory buildings have become storage and warehouse units or start-up facilities for new businesses.

Many people choose to call North Buffalo home because of the presence of its numerous educational institutions, including grade schools (both public and private), high schools, colleges, and universities. Another big draw for the area is the presence of cultural and recreational institutions such as nearby Delaware and Shoshone Parks, both the Albright-Knox and Burchfield Penney Art Galleries, and the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

Conclusion

North Buffalo is a diverse community with a healthy mixture of residential, commercial, manufacturing, and cultural and educational institutions. For many years, this eclectic, strong neighborhood was able to sustain two permanent branches of the Library System. For reasons out of the community’s control, the last five years have seen the closure of two well-utilized,

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permanent library branches and the opening of one temporary facility. The vibrancy of the community, coupled with the popularity of the temporary library branch, demonstrate that library services within this area are still very important, and as such, this committee believes the area deserves a permanent, full-service library branch.

This committee was born out of the need to address the long-term library needs of the area. Toward that end, the Committee recommends a scientific survey be professionally administered to the community, with the results to be forwarded to Mayor Brown, with the ultimate goal being action based on community need. The following questions should be addressed by the survey:

- (1) Does the community desire a new, permanent library branch?
- (2) If so, where should the new branch be built/relocated?
- (3) If a new, permanent library branch is opened, what type of services would the community like provided?