

Wickenburg Public Library

Proposed Library Board Vision

The Wickenburg Public Library is a community gathering place created to facilitate both individual study and group collaboration where information, knowledge, education, and entertainment can be obtained by the public.

Proposed Library Board Mission

Access to information and knowledge goes beyond books and electronic media. The library's mission is the dissemination of information and knowledge for the individual; plus the facilitation of small groups that seek to collaborate together. It is designed to foster education, entertainment, and creativity for life long learning. Knowing that the public we serve is seeking quality and accurate information, a key component of the library is the validation of resources and education on how to access information.

Proposed Library Board Key Core Values

Education And The Facilitation Of Knowledge:

The library has a wealth of knowledge and it has the ability to facilitate and assist those who are seeking knowledge. It is critical that the library staff be well versed on the tools available for finding information. The library staff and volunteers need to be trained in assisting the public in the use of both print and electronic media. It should offer education related to the use of reference material and databases. The library can offer other education and training opportunities as needed by the public. Included in its education and knowledge offerings, the library seeks to support business, government, and non profit organizations within its service area. The archive of history and the support of research are included as part of its core values. One possible enhancement to the library might be the purchase of "Quiet Carrels" for individual study.

Critical for the success of the library is a sustained marketing plan that keeps the public informed on educational programs and enhancements within the library. An ongoing effort needs to continue where education and even degree programs could be managed from the library as part of the outreach to the community. The expansion of children programs and the advertising of those programs are an important part of the marketing plan. The library needs to offer both classes on subjects that are of interest to the public plus it needs to maintain a database of tutors who would be available on an "as need" basis.

Addition areas to explore as possible additions to the library include: E-Book software (Overdrive), E-Book readers (Hardware), Class on how to use an E-Book Reader, an Electronic Class room within the library, Search Engine Programs (Wiley, Eric), possibly installing outside a "Red Box Type" Kiosk for movie rental, and a possible

home delivery program of books and multimedia to the public who cannot physically get to the library.

Community Gathering Place:

This core value is an important element of the library as part of its on going efforts to service the public. The library needs to further develop a support structure that will enhance its value as a community gathering place. Those services might include the following: expanded computer portals and WIFI access, audio and video equipment for multimedia and broadcasting, separate rooms for small groups, food and other refreshments that could be purchased, and furniture that creates a comfortable environment for both individuals and groups. The installation of a Whiteboard and/or other multimedia education tool designed to assist an instructor would greatly enhance our efforts to offer education programs. The library can also become a location for outside activities including mobile health care services and collaboration with other organizations who seek to provide a service to members of our community.

Part of the future library plan involves the development of the outdoor space adjacent to the perimeter of the building. The back patio could be enclosed to provide added space for possibly food and beverage service or a more controlled outside seating and meeting place. Outdoor coverings within the park open space could also enhance the use space where free WIFI access could be utilized by the public.

The room just to the left after entering the lobby could be developed into multimedia space where activities including video games and other entertainment could be made available to the public. Podcast and other media events could be viewed in this room that is separate from the general space. Adding comfortable seating would also enhance this space.

Other possible additions to the library that would help support its core value as a gathering place might include: an art studio and display area for local artists, a drama studio, a mini theater and music room, and possibly some exercise equipment like treadmills where users can view multimedia programs while doing physical exercise.

Following are some details, but are by no means a formal proposal. At this point, they represent some thoughts for processing.

Physical Changes To The Facility & Grounds:

To further meet the vision, mission, and key core values of the library some changes are required to both the inside and outside space. The balance of this report will consider options and provide estimated costs for both the town and interested individuals/groups who might want to help in making these enhancements a reality.

Looking first at the outside space, there are two shuffle board concrete pads to the west of the building. The lines are faded and it is not used for its original purpose. We see this

space as being further developed where additional concrete is added between the existing concrete strips. Next, we suggest a sun shade covering that is common at playgrounds and parks. This will provide for the added picnic tables that would be placed on the concrete and it gives the library (town) an outside space for groups to gather. The free WIFI that is offered by the town and library could be accessed from this location 24/7. Estimated cost for this enhancement is \$3,000 for the concrete work and up to \$4,000 for the sun shade (see below).

The north side of the building has a small patio that could be accessed from either the inside of the building or an outside gate. The door on the inside of the building has an alarm that goes off when the door is opened. It is used as an emergency exit for the library.

The recommendation being brought in this report is to trim the tree that is outside the patio area and add tables and chairs. This would be new exterior space that could have some type of higher decorative fencing placed on top of the wall for added security. There would still be a gate but it would have the security buzzer installed where the interior doors could have their security alarms turned off during library hours. We see the gate needing to stay as a fire exit. Patrons within the library could access this patio and enjoy food and beverage while using the library. Its location being close to the children's section would expand their space for outside activities (art projects). Cost to build the fencing and add the exterior tables are estimated at \$5,000.

Entrance Area:

The wall to the left as you enter the building is large enough for a coffee bar and light food (packaged products). There are power outlets on the existing wall and water is also located near this wall. This could be a revenue source for the library and those who are raising the funds to support the library.

Espresso bars can be very expensive running from \$10,000 to \$40,000. What are needed are a cold case and the equipment necessary to make hot and cold drinks. The Friends of the Library can better decide what makes sense as a budget item to make this a reality. The cost to make this space available is relatively low. The floors already are tiled and only a water source from the adjacent bathroom plus a connection to the sewer line is needed. Estimated cost is \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Meeting Room:

The meeting room that is to the right as you enter the building could become an excellent resource for both the library and the community. The current configuration needs to be changed to make this space more effective for all parties. The removal of the false wall would expand the room from the current 18' x 21.5' to a larger room of 18' x 30'.

This change plus the addition of new technical equipment would make this space far more useful. The recommendation would be to install a white board and video

conferencing space in the back half of the room. There would be the new video equipment installed in the east wall and classroom style furniture would be bought to accommodate 25 people (possibly set up in a “U-Shaped” format). This would take up the back half of the room.

The front half would have a mixture of comfortable chairs plus a large screen TV installed on the north wall (between the two posts). This TV could be used for games and television use.

Chairs for the front section of the Meeting Room should be functional but not too expensive.

Inside Area:

Turning to the inside portion of the library, we might first consider doing some painting of various sections (rooms). That alone would brighten and refresh each section of the library. This can be done in sections with a cost of material running at about \$300 per room (Children’s Section, Computer Section as examples). The labor could be volunteers to help keep the cost as low as possible.

The Computer Section could also have a White Board type product installed at the east end to facilitate a classroom teaching experience (see costs in the previous section above). Moving the work stations into a classroom format would allow for more stations to be placed for expanded service.

In the back eastern portion of the library and on the North wall (where the windows are located) would be a prime spot to locate 4 to 6 study carrels.