

- Attendees: Dr. Deborah Kish - Aims Community College  
Amy Tuttle and Bob Williams - Greeley Evans District 6  
Becky Safarik - City of Greeley  
Helen Reed - University of Northern Colorado  
Andrew Wronkoski - Greeley Police  
Sean Conway and Steve Moreno - Weld County Commissioners  
Pam Bricker -Greeley Downtown Development Authority  
Rand E. Morgan - Community Foundation Serving Greeley and Weld County  
Nick Berryman and Gage Osthoff - Realtec
- Ken Poncelow: The HPLD Board needs to make a decision concerning the library in the downtown Greeley area. Should it be one large library, several small libraries? Several computer centers? Should it be in the current Greeley City Hall? We are asking of this group their ideas. They are not making recommendations. Neither Bob (Grand) nor Tony (Brewer) will give answers in the discussion. We will gather this group together again in another two months.
- Introductions:
- Ken: My wife is a reading teacher. Most of my reading has been technical manuals. Haven't spent a lot of time in libraries. But spending a lot of time now. The mission of libraries is changing from when Ben Franklin first started libraries. We now have Maker Spaces and 3D printers. Libraries are changing. Books are still part of it.
- Becky Safarik: The library is located in the downtown creative district, where there is a concentration of enterprises. A place of discovery. Where people can go to learn more about their world. Emphasis is much more experiential. There is also an emphasis on partnerships, which has not historically been done. Eclectic in demographics, with the Sunrise Clinic, IRC (Immigration and Refugee Center), agricultural, Latino, gateway to the university, a business center of over 3,000 employees, administrative offices, county, city and major employers.
- Bob Grand: Should there be large or smaller points. No data at this point.
- Andrew Wronkoski: Likes idea of smaller satellites.
- Helen Reed: A combination of both. Part of the downtown community. Models of collaboration with others. But there are staffing concerns with so many small locations. Requires a creative plan, but smaller more integrated service. It's about building community, especially east of 35th Avenue.
- Pam Bricker: Since the library moved, not serving as many families. There's not the space to do much, and be creative. A library's survival is about getting young to the library. And that starts at a young age. There is a population with language barriers. There is very limited space in current location. I agree it's about community space. There was a major study done by the library that came back saying we need a big central place, a larger community place. It's different when books are everywhere or in little pods. It's the difference between Tattered Cover versus the corner bookstore. So I support a good sized presence in downtown. I like the good sized feel.

- Deborah Kish: I like a combination of both if that's what we're debating. Students doing coursework at a community education center. Mobile learning labs and maker spaces. Opportunities for different age groups that allow the parents to do something else.
- Sean Conway: Like the transit station and what's been done there. All the facilities that are surrounding it, like Rodarte, Sunrise, Guadalupe. The 11th Street corrido with transit station makes sense. I used to love big libraries. The future is access to computers and access to wifi. Placement of libraries seems to be in neighborhoods, like Erie and Carbon Valley Libraries.
- Bob: The trend of programs is negative. Need events that draw people in. Pueblo has 92 events in a month. We took the bus tour from Briggsdale. The District is 4,000 square miles. Two-thirds of the population is outside Greeley. Should we make mobil centers for events. There's a wealth of recommendations. We're delving into community participation.
- Becky: For mobile services we have bookmobiles. Libraries are for all populations, not just the poor. We should have events like wine and cheese parties.
- Bob: There are wonderful art programs. That's a challenge to member libraries. We have to draw people in, make it attractive. Needs to be more than books on the shelf.
- Rand E. Morgan: When younger, used a library in west Texas. A Carnegie. It's still there. For us, it was a destination -- family wants to come. It's a community library that one donates to. Lately stumbled upon "The Wonder Sound". This is a children's museum, by a Greeley artist. Each room has separate sound. Could have such a resource here -- people would come in. See a strong library as a place of destination.
- Becky: A large center but cooperating with others. I know there are staffing and infrastructure issues to be considered. I grew up in Denver, where there were branches, but still traveled to the main library.
- Bob: Asked how many have library cards. Most raised hands.
- Helen: I just came from ALA conference in Denver. Critical need is literacy. One of the challenges for school achievement is attaining a certain level of literacy. The more "privileged" will hear a million words. Not so among the less privileged. Mentioned the Literacy Network. Opportunities to help improve achievements. Studies that show how important this is.
- Amy Tuttle: Important to get access early. Not just children but parents. Some find it difficult to get that access in a place like Michener [Library]. A community library feels like it's for them. Helps to have community rooms. Maker room experiences. Apt to go where parents already take them. There is something to be said for larger library, but no problem with smaller pods. Now people rely more on digital text. But many like the book smell - a place for both. Need larger rooms for computers so as to not interrupt others. We are also thinking about the arts district and the opportunity to display art. There is so much potential.
- Bob: Community meeting spaces and small libraries?

- Amy: Make areas that are welcoming and comfortable. Reason to go. Why do people go to coffee shops. Computer access and wifi-- feels more inviting. Can feel intimidating if it seems like all business. Places to come in and work. Some students access Centennial and Farr. But for some students it's hard to use libraries especially after dark. Need something at this end of town.
- Andrew: Don't see families [at current site]. Starting to get uncomfortable. There are so many there from probation, parole, work release. Need to gear to families. Maybe a main library that we really promote.
- Helen: Build for now, but design infrastructure that's flexible. What in the building will change? An example is establishment in Guadalupe Center - computers and books, portable hotspots that one can take home.
- Bob: Challenge is not for today but 5, 10, 20 years down the road. Not building for yesterday.
- Helen: Farr has been remodeled to reflect changes. Good idea to do that.
- Pam: Community engagement is important. Stimulating learning. Doesn't necessarily have to be books. Amazed at programs and events. Need a community center where one can feel comfortable. Library we have is too small and crowded. In the former library, other than the gauntlet one needed to walk through at entrance, you could find a space of your own. Small makes that more uncomfortable, especially when there are those that are misbehaving.
- Bob: Next steps: Think of what we talked about. New director should be here in six weeks. We are anxious to do something. Want it to be data driven. Will set up a meeting in next several weeks.
- Sean: Do we need to be bringing potential resources? How much money?
- Bob: Thinks cost money. It is nice to have money in the bank. We are working on a pilot program for low interest loans to members.