

## **Community Update from the Elk Rapids District Library**

September 18, 2017

### **Elk Rapids District Library Board Approves Conceptual Plans for Expansion**

At a special meeting on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, members of the Elk Rapids District Library Board approved conceptual plans for a proposed addition to the library as presented by the architectural firm Hopkins Burns Design Studio.

Board president Thomas Yocum says with this decision, the library board will continue to move forward with its exploration, presenting conceptual plans to the Elk Rapids Village Council and the community over the next several weeks and preparing in-depth financial forecasts.

The library is located in the historic Island House owned by the Village. The site is listed in the Michigan Historic Registry. During her presentation of the conceptual plans, architect Tamara Burns of Hopkins Burns explained the firm had reviewed the plans with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which has given its support to the project.

State Historic Preservation Officer Brian Conway sent a letter of support to the library Board stating: "After careful review of these documents and extensive conversations with the Hopkins Burns representatives, we have concluded that the proposed addition design represented therein appears to be consistent with the historic character, design and setting of the property and conforms to the guidance contained in the *Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation*."

The proposed library addition is two levels aligning with the current building: main floor and a lower walkout level. Combined, the two levels are roughly 6000 sq ft. The plans show the addition extending from the southwest corner of the library and connecting to the existing west wing of the building. The main floor features a program room, adult reading area and restrooms. The lower level contains the children and teen areas, casual seating and vending area, restrooms and tutoring rooms. The Book Cellar will remain in the lower level and the main entrance will stay in its current location as well. The generous use of windows throughout the design allows for views of the Island House property, trees and glimpses of the bay.

The plan also calls for the restoration of several historical elements of the Island House including the parlor, the fireplace located near the front desk, and a conservatory located to the west of the porch along the face of the building.

The additional space allows for reconfiguration and modest expansion of the adult collections and the addition of comfortable seating, work stations and quiet reading areas. The children and teen areas will have similar amenities and capacity for larger collections as well. Separate computer stations are planned for the adult, children and teen areas

The conceptual plans will be on display in the library, posted on the library website and presented to the Village Council at their regular meeting at 7 pm, Monday, October 2, 2017 at the Elk Rapids Government Center. Community members are invited to attend.