



Dominy Memorial Library: A New Chapter

www.dominymemoriallibrary.org

Question and Answer Sheet

Q. Why has Dominy Memorial Library begun a Capital Campaign?

A. Our library stands at the threshold of an exciting expansion and renovation project needed to bring it into the 21st century with handicapped accessibility, room for growth of collection and technology, public meeting rooms available to our community, and program space that meets safety requirements including more than one emergency exit.

Q. What will it cost to renovate the existing building and construct an addition?

A. It will cost \$3.3 million to renovate the existing 6,400 square foot structure and add 10,000 square feet to the east, including handicapped accessibility, furnishings, contingency, and professional fees.

Q. What is the goal of the campaign?

A. Our board and committee seeks to raise \$3.3 million in private donations to cover the costs of renovating the existing structure and adding a new wing.

Q. If the goal is not realized, where will the balance of the funds be obtained?

A. Some funds are available from a small reserve. It is possible that a bond referendum will be submitted to Fairbury voters, but we are seeking first to raise the funds through the generosity of donors. Dominy Memorial Library has been a vital part of our lives for generations.

Q. What is the time frame of the campaign?

A. The campaign will cover **at least** a three year period. Some families made commitments that began in 2007. Pledges are still being accepted. An actual start date will not be set until a substantial amount of the funds has been acquired.

Q. Wouldn't you be better off building a new building?

A. No. Dominy Memorial Library is a beloved, historic structure in Fairbury, located in a high traffic area in the heart of the community with adequate land for the addition and plenty of parking.

Q. How can you afford the increased cost of the larger building?

A. Thinking about future operating costs, we have planned a library where children's and adult book collections, computer usage areas, reading areas, and study rooms could all be observed by a minimum number of staff. However the larger space will bring an increase in utility and maintenance costs.

Q. How does this plan enable you to serve additional people?

A. Persons who are physically challenged will be able to access all library facilities; an enhanced collection will attract additional patrons to the library, as will additional library program space and space for community activities in the new meeting rooms and new Dominy Memorial Library Community Room that will be added.

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Q. What additional services will be available as a result of the expansion and renovation?

A. The enhanced space will give us meeting rooms for the public consistent with fire-safety regulations (currently we only have one exit from the children's area and meeting rooms); more room for the well attended Children's Program; space for area families who home school their children; space for an expanded book and audio-visual collection; and space for additional computers for public use, along with creating a community room capable of seating 103 people.

Q. Why do you need this much space?

A. Apace Design..an excellent architectural firm...has developed a design that will serve us well in the 21st century. It complements our present library and functionally provides for an efficient and cost effective operation. To meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements we need additional, accessible space for our current and future collections, meeting rooms, restrooms, private study rooms, additional computers, and other anticipated future needs, We feel 10,000 additional feet is optimal.

Q. Why do we need to move on this project? Why can't it wait?

A. Construction costs were figured at \$185 a sq. ft. to build and \$80 a sq. ft. to renovate. Also included are furnishings and equipment; architect's costs; contingencies; and administrative costs such as legal, moving, insurance, utility installation, soil borings, and landscape design.

Q. How long will it take to build? When would we have occupancy?

A. It will take approximately a year and a half to renovate and build the new wing.

Q. Will the library remain open during construction and renovation?

A. Dominy Memorial Library will remain open during construction and renovation. During part of the process, the books will remain in the existing building. At some point, if necessary, many of the books, computers, and essentials will be relocated to a nearby site until the building is finished.

Q. How do I make a commitment?

A. Please fill out the Letter of Commitment indicating the amount and timing of your gift. Checks should be made payable to Dominy Memorial Library Building Fund. **Donors requiring 501(c)(3) status should make checks payable to: Prairie Lands Foundation. Please write "For Dominy Memorial Library" on the memo line.** Your gift will be tax deductible to the full amount allowable under Internal Revenue Service regulations.