

Posted on Wed, Feb. 28, 2007

## Auburn library plan OK'd

Building renovated for offices, storage

By Angela Mapes  
The Journal Gazette

AUBURN – The Auburn Board of Zoning Appeals on Tuesday granted Eckhart Public Library's request to convert a neighboring building into a storage and office facility.

The building at 212 W. Twelfth St., across the street from the library, will be renovated to add a second story and will be used for storage and support of the library.

The board voted unanimously to grant the library's application for contingent use of the building, which is in a multifamily residential district.

The building was bought in January 2006 through donations to the library, director Janelle Graber said.

Although the property is in a residential district, the library is not aware of it ever being used as a dwelling, said Jonathan Moss, president of Moss Construction Cost Management Inc. of Auburn.

The building has been used for Junior Achievement activities, as a print shop and also as a dog-training facility, Moss said.

It has a dated exterior, and the renovations would improve the look of the neighborhood, he said.

Although the library plans to add a second story to the one-story building, it would not be taller than neighboring houses and would be in keeping with the neighborhood's residential feel, he said.

The renovations also will seek to make the building a low-maintenance, energy efficient and durable building, Moss said.

"We're not spending big bucks," he said.

He hopes the building eventually would be eligible for the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Environmental Engineering certification.

"It's an ideal opportunity to see something that's going to be a flagship in our community," he said.

The finished project would be more than 4,900 square feet, according to the library's application.

The first floor would be used to store yard equipment and the library's van, currently stored at the William H. Willennar Genealogy Center, which the library opened in 2002.

Processing, cataloging, network systems and book repair, currently housed in the library basement, will be in the building's new second story.

That will allow the library to expand children's services in the library basement and regain storage space at the genealogy center.

Although the library underwent an extensive renovation and expansion in 1996, future computer and network needs weren't fully anticipated, Moss said. The library's current computer server room is a cramped space that barely allows the computer equipment adequate cooling.

The renovated building will not be open to the public, but they will see benefits in enhanced services at the library and genealogy center, Moss said.

The library hopes to begin the second-story addition this summer and complete the interior in September. In December, it will reconfigure the library's basement.

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