

DBTL Update #37

Dear Friends of the Downtown Library ~

On May 9 and 10, when we sent our two alerts about the important May 14 City Council meeting, there were 123 of you receiving the alerts. Today as we send this summary of the meeting, our numbers have grown by five, to 128 who now receive these e-updates. Welcome aboard to the new five!

Correspondence to City Council

A total of 180 emails were received prior to the May 14 Council meeting. The best news of all is that of those 180 emails, only 42 supported the garage-library project, compared to **138** that either supported a renovated and revitalized library and/or opposed the parking garage/library project. When attendance at meetings is not possible, letting the Council hear your words via email is powerful. Accolades to the emailers amongst us!

Meeting Summary

After a brief discussion of the "Library project" item by Council members, public comment was solicited. About 20 people spoke, 15 basically supporting the library and/or opposing the parking garage and only 5 supporting a library in a new parking garage. To view a video of the proceedings go to this City website <http://scsire.cityofsantacruz.com/sirepub/mtgviewer.aspx?meetid=1168&doctype=AGENDA>.

I used my 2 minutes to specifically address the agenda Council Report and the Motion. I requested *two amendments* to the Motion before Council. They were:

- The Motion as printed in the agenda packet must be amended to define exactly what is meant by "Downtown Library Branch project" -- the library in a garage project as approved by the City Council on September 11, 2018.
- The Motion must be amended to be clear that restoration and revitalization of the library is on the table as a legitimate alternative for this subcommittee.

I also made the following point:

- The public must be able to *observe the proceedings* of the subcommittee, in order to be assured that restoration and revitalization of the library is seriously considered. The public does not need to speak at these non-Brown Act subcommittee meetings, but all of the subcommittee meetings have to be transparent by being open to observation.

Amended Motion

Good news, first. Justin Cummings made the motion, which included both amendments suggested by DBTL. Hey, its always good to ask, huh?! Watkins seconded.

During discussion of the motion, Drew Glover spoke eloquently about the need to know, before voting, more details about the work plan of the subcommittee. Both Glover and Chris Krohn worked to get a third amendment to the motion to make the subcommittee meetings open to observation. They both stressed the need for transparency because there was so much lacking in the past (DLAC history). The bad news is that their efforts failed. Instead, after further discussion, it was decided that the subcommittee would return to Council with a status report on the details requested by Glover and Krohn. This will likely be the May 28 Council meeting.

When asked where the subcommittee would be meeting, Cummings said they hadn't figured that out yet and Sandy Brown said they didn't know if they would have a big enough room. Krohn replied "*Why not meet in the upstairs library meeting room?!*" Right on, Chris!

Eventually they voted on the motion. It passed unanimously. It must be noted that, prior to the official vote, the Mayor did not have the motion read back to Council by staff taking minutes of the meeting. We'll see if we can get that motion text sooner than May 23rd.

Since this matter continues to be very fluid, we'll no doubt have another update next week. Stay tuned ...

Jean Brocklebank

<https://dontburythelibrary.weebly.com/>