

MINUTES

Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC)

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

6:00pm Meeting Room, Downtown Branch

224 Church Street in Santa Cruz

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Steve Blair, Linda Craighead, Martha Dexter, Rena Dubin, Nikolara Dunbar-Jansons, Martín J. Gomez, Elise Granata, and Tera Martin

ABSENT: Yolanda Henry and Teresa Thomae until 6:17pm

STAFF: Director of Libraries Susan Nemitz and Administrative Assistant Ivan Sumano-Vargas

2. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Notes from December 3rd Community Meeting

- Group Reports
- Concerns About Options
- Unanswered Questions

3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA

MOTION:	MOVE PUBLIC COMMENTS TO THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING TO BE ENDED AT 6:30PM WITH A SECOND ROUND OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AT THE END OF THE MEETING IF TIME IS AVAILABLE
MOVER:	Nikolara Dunbar-Jansons
SECONDER:	Martín J. Gomez
AYES:	Blair, Craighead, Dexter, Dubin, Granata, and Martin
ABSENT:	Henry and Thomae
RESULT:	PASSED

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 2017 MEETING

RESULT:	APPROVED MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 2017 MEETING
MOVER:	Linda Craighead
SECONDER:	Nikolara Dunbar-Jansons
AYES:	Blair, Dexter, Dubin, Gomez, Granata, and Martin
ABSENT:	Henry and Thomae

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jean Brockelbank – Mentioned the 3 emails she sent to the committee before this meeting. One email was about how she felt Option A was misrepresented. The other mentioned a report about solar panels for all library branches.

Michael Lewis – Believed the public meeting should have been held at the beginning so that the committee could have heard from the public about what they really thought



about what was happening with their library. Heard some disparaging remarks at the public meeting about old people.

Judi Grunstra – Believed the December 3rd public meeting was very valuable but was disappointed that there wasn't anyone there to answer questions due to the format of the meeting.

Cliff Barney – Has been going to libraries all his life and he really likes the Santa Cruz library. Motivated by Option B, new mixed use construction project. Wanted to know what happens if Option B is recommended and the struggle to get it together.

Col. Terry Maxwell – Here to endorse staying in the current building and renovating it because of the cost differentials. Finds the architect's estimates of the costs preposterous. Believes the current library building can be satisfactorily improved at a much lower cost. Disappointed at the lack of concern of the taxpayer's money.

Deborah Osterburg – Believes Option B, new mixed use construction is the most logical choice. An advocate for patron safety and it should come first. Very vital to also have Genealogy, family, and local history room.

Susan Martinez – Against moving the library from its current location. Compared the budget for the library renovations to the new Hilton hotel and questioned why the hotel is much larger and yet it costs less than the library renovations. Mentioned pollution levels as an argument against the parking garage.

Fred Geigr – States that there have been 4 instances of raising taxes to save the libraries. Claims they were wrong those 4 times and mistrusts the figures being presented. Believes these numbers are being pulled out of the air from people with no credibility. Believes the parking structure will never be built and therefore it's a bad idea to tie the library to it.

Dan Spelce – Likes the idea of rebuilding on the current site, but also thinks the mixed use construction option will make for a fine site. Suggests the library should be the landmark structure where a city plaza could be developed at the new site with the parking structure. Believes that family history and Genealogy have a core place in the library's future.

Laurel Rune – Mentioned a meeting from October 15, 2015 where the city met with three consultants about whether the city needed more parking. Compared Santa Cruz to Boulder, Colorado and their programs that encourage people to drive less. Doesn't think it's a sensible thing to combine the library with the parking garage project.

6. REPORT BY THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

None

7. MEMBER REPORTS

None



8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Public Meeting Debrief

The committee was pleased with the turnout for the community meeting. Reportedly had around 80-100 people come and go throughout the day. Felt that there was a diversity of opinion but that sometimes a certain group would drown out the voice of others. Sometimes the groups would lose focus and discuss library programs when the intention of the community meeting was to hear opinions about the different construction options. It was difficult to share so much information in a small amount of time as well as bridging the communication between newcomers and people who have attended multiple DLAC meetings. It was pointed out that there was an element of homogeneity of the people that came and while their voice is important it's only a piece of the bigger picture. So it would also be important to remember that there are many other groups of people that weren't able to make it and voice their opinions.

B. Summary of Construction Options

A group of 3 DLAC members met and reviewed all the feedback from the community meeting to try to remove opinions from the draft summary of construction options they had originally presented and try to make it more statements of facts. The summary is still a work in progress.

C. Remaining Questions

City Manager Martin Bernal and Claire who works with Transportation Demand Management were both present to answer any remaining questions. Multiple questions were asked of both them concerning alternative transportation programs for the city, parking impacts from other projects, and general questions about the partnership between the library and the parking garage.

Claire confirmed that like Boulder, Santa Cruz has been working on projects and programs to increase the amount of alternative transportation used by people. A bus pass program had been considered for city workers but the data showed people were more likely to bike than to use the bus. Therefore a bike share program will be implemented, but a bus pass program will still be explored.

She also went on to explain that the net number of parking spaces in the downtown area could decrease even with the mixed use parking structure being built. The reason it could decrease is because many of the surface parking lots the city currently uses are leased and when those leases end the owners of the space may use it for their own construction plans.

There was a concern about the autonomy of the library and being part of the parking structure. Martin Bernal confirmed that it would be more of a partnership between the library and the parking district. Only library professionals would have a say on designing the inside of the library.

A question was asked about whether the garage would still be built if the library chose to not go with the mixed use option. Martin Bernal said that it would all really depend and it is still ultimately up to the City Council. However, the garage is not contingent on the library at all and the mixed use actually benefits the library more than the parking district.

D. Recommendation

Committee shortly deliberated on how to present their recommendation. Settled on making a motion on an option and then discussing that motion.

MOTION:	THAT THIS COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL OPTION B, NEW MIXED USE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT
MOVER:	Martín J. Gomez
SECONDER:	Teresa Thomae
AYES:	Blair, Craighead, Dunbar-Jansons, Dexter, Dubin, Granata, and Martin
ABSENT:	Yolanda Henry
RESULT:	PASSED

The committee all had a consensus that option B would be the best option to recommend as their top choice.

When discussion arose about how to recommend the other options there was a debate about whether option A should be considered a viable option to recommend to the City Council. Arguments were made that it was too much money and ultimately would appear as if nothing had changed to the existing library and it wouldn't provide a viable library that could last for 30 years. Others said that it could still be a viable option to provide with the current budget and the money would at least be taken advantage of and at least the building would receive the needed fixes and could then be improved in the future.

MOTION:	NOT TO RECOMMEND OPTION A – PARTIAL RENOVATION OF EXISTING LIBRARY
MOVER:	Rena Dubin
SECONDER:	Tera Martin
AYES:	Thomae
NAYS:	Blair, Craighead, Dunbar-Jansons, Dexter, Gomez, and Granata
ABSENT:	Yolanda Henry
RESULT:	FAILED

MOTION:	EXTEND MEETING TO 8:15PM
MOVER:	Martín J. Gomez
SECONDER:	Steve Blair
AYES:	Craighead, Dunbar-Jansons, Dexter, Dubin, Granata, Martin, and Thomae
ABSENT:	Yolanda Henry
RESULT:	PASSED

As the final recommendation the committee had a consensus to propose a forced ranked order of the 4 options.



MOTION:	PROPOSE A RANKED ORDER OF B, C, A, D OF THE 4 OPTIONS TO CITY COUNCIL
MOVER:	Steve Blair
SECONDER:	Martin J. Gomez
AYES:	Craighead, Dunbar-Jansons, Dexter, Dubin, Granata, Martin, and Thomae
ABSENT:	Yolanda Henry
RESULT:	PASSED

It was decided that Rena, Steve, and Tera would write a draft report by early January. A final DLAC meeting will be held in January to approve the final report to the City Council.

E. Caveats - SKIPPED

F. Draft Report Proposal - SKIPPED

G. January Meeting to Finalize Report - SKIPPED

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jean Brocklebank – Pointed out the committee spent 30 minutes talking about parking and transportation which had nothing to do with the library. Claims the draft summary of construction options contains errors of fact.

Judi Grunstra – Points out that there should have been more public meetings from the very beginning. Is completely against the idea of sticking the library into a garage and is disappointed in the committee’s decision.

Col. Terry Maxwell – Claims the committee and the City Council is not authorized to propose option B. Believes every renovation needed for the existing building could be done for \$10-20 million.

Mark Lee – Believes this process should have been stretched out more. Also believes the existing study done by the architect firm, Noll & Tam, is highly suspect. Thinks the decision is premature and that he could build a huge brand new library in the current location for \$18 million.

John Golder – Believes a multi-level parking garage and a library are incompatible. Claims that all the cars will create a nuisance for the atmosphere of the library.

Gloria Lighthart – Suggests to use the Good Times to advertise future meetings.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Final Adjournment of the Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC) at 8:00pm to the next Regular Meeting to be held on Thursday, January 25th at 6:30pm at the Downtown Branch Meeting Room located at 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Respectfully submitted,
Ivan Sumano-Vargas, Clerk of the Committee