

Here is a Summary of Subcommittee Meeting of Sept. 17th:

- The 2 hour meeting was available for the public to observe. There were about 20 in attendance in addition to the eight individuals representing four "stakeholder" groups. The meeting was well managed by Amanda Rotella, who has been doing a stellar job for the Subcommittee, as well as keeping the Subcommittee web site up to date. One can see contents of the Subcommittee web site here: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-council-subcommittees/downtown-library/downtown-library-subcommittee-meeting-9-17-19>

- Justin Cummings was in attendance remotely via an electronic device.

- The meeting was more about an overall vision of downtown. Specifics about the library were lacking, which is good for two reasons:

- 1.) The proposed parking garage (aka mixed-use project) is not dependent on having a new library as a tenant (as explained by City Manager Martin Bernal almost two years ago).

- 2.) Everyone at the meeting spoke about wanting a really beautiful downtown library that will provide children and teen spaces, meeting rooms, technology and programs desired by the public. All of this can be provided by a creatively reconfigured, renovated and revitalized downtown library.

Even though the City paid to have two out of state planning firm representatives -- Progressive Urban Management Associates (PUMA) from Denver and the National Development Council (NDC) from Seattle, some of the take home messages from those firms were quite interesting!!

Consider these one liners (the first 2 from PUMA, the last 3 from NDC) --

- Only 60% of 18 year olds have drivers licenses; the long term trend is for less cars over time.

- It is important to have shared spaces where people can gather.

- We can modify our parking requirements.
- In reviewing a project in Redmond, WA, we saw are spending a lot more on concrete than we have to.
- In Portland they are wisely putting parking garages on the periphery of the downtown core.

After PUMA and NDC came the Economic Development Department's Director Bonnie Lipscomb, who had some interesting comments about retail and retailers -- "We're not going to be able to fill the space left when we lose Forever 21." If this is so, one might wonder why we have to provide more retail space in a mixed-use building on Lot 4. Bonnie also spoke of "creating great public spaces."

Do all of you realize that the EDD is identified as the Successor Agency to the former Redevelopment Agency of the City of Santa Cruz on its website?! And that Cynthia Matthews sits on the Oversight Board of the Successor Agency? Not that there is anything wrong with her membership - just that the development interconnections are always of interest.

Also of interest were thoughts from several stakeholder groups in the second half of the meeting. A few highlights --

- Don Lane (Downtown Forward): "People will remember you for the library you choose." [Editor's note: No doubt!]
- Patrick Prindle (Downtown Forward): "I don't know that you can renovate the existing library." [Editor's note: This is why we now have Jayson Architecture working on a report on renovation for the Subcommittee, which will be available in about a month.]
- Peggy from Cruzio (representing Business Council): "... over time you've got to reduce the parking" and "We all need air; we all need light." [Editor's note: Peggy started by saying the mixed-use structure is a way to get a better library.]
- Greg Pepping (Coastal Watershed Council): "We all need breaks from

technology."

To listen to the entire meeting audio recording go here <https://soundcloud.com/user-960846484/downtown-library-subcommittee-meeting-91719>.

Last but not least, the Subcommittee meeting this Thursday (9/26) will be an internal meeting with Subcommittee members only. No public observation. Their next currently scheduled meeting is October 3.

There are three separate groups working on this one huge development matter. Don't Bury The Library (DBTL), the Campaign for Sustainable Transportation, and Downtown Commons Advocates (DCA). We're probably a total of 200 activists. Together we can make a difference! Thanks for being one of us! We're still taking one step at a time, ever optimistic and yet cautious about what the final outcome will be. Stay tuned, stay informed, stay well.

Jean Brocklebank
Don't Bury The Library