

Hello friends of the downtown library ~

The City is plowing ahead with its absurd plans to build a project covering all of Lot 4 with 5 or 6 stories and forcing the Farmers Market to a new, less desirable location. The City continues to misname their development the Mixed Use **Library** Project, as though it is a new library that drives this huge development.

This update will catch you up with some details of last three months of activity and to ask for your participation in this coming Tuesday City Council meeting -- either before or during Tuesday's Council meeting (9/22).

First a summary for you.

Our last update reported that on June 23rd the City Council had formally approved in concept the Mixed-Use Project that would contain a new library (smaller than the existing library).

Among several directives given to staff on June 23 was the following (our bolded emphasis):

5. Direct staff "***to provide a report to City Council at the earliest possible time, but no later than three months***", containing **detailed financial information** regarding each component of the mixed use project."

We thought staff might return on August 25 with some kind of preliminary financial information for the project, or at the least, some kind of report on the status of how they were proceeding. We expected an agenda item devoted to this informational item. There was none. All we got was a minute and 45 seconds in the City Manager's Report when Martín Bernal said that there had been a "robust" response to the RFP (Request for Proposals) for an Owner's Representative (to marshall the entire project for the city).

For a moment let's fast forward to this Tuesday's (9/22) Council meeting ... ostensibly the deadline for the "*no later than three months*" directive for financial information. Is anyone surprised to learn that there is ***no agenda item for a financial information report*** so the Council may deliberate as to whether this mystery project is proceeding according to Council's specific directions?

On top of that, the only agenda item on Tuesday's meeting, dealing with the project, is found on the Consent Agenda, and it asks the Council to authorize the City to pay a ***quarter of a million dollars*** (\$240,000) to contract with staff's newly chosen Owner's Representative (OR). No surprise to learn that the city has things backwards. Again. We think they intend to have the OR develop the financial information. And how long will that take?! No surprise either to learn that some portion of that \$240,000 will be taken from Measure S funds because, after all, this is a Mixed Use **Library** Project!

We can report that Council member Katherine Beiers has agreed to pull the agenda item from the Consent Agenda for discussion under General Business. This means there will be some kind of vote. We can count on Beiers and Sandy Brown so we need a third vote (Cummings?) to say *Whoa -- let's get our financial information before we automatically commit a quarter of a million*

*to a project that may not be financially viable for a city already at risk of suffocating due to lack of budget oxygen!*

Stay with our summary a wee bit longer, because we have a call to action for you.

For your information, if interested, here are some details on the OR chosen (from among four firms interviewed):

- Web site <https://griffinstructures.com/about/>
- Program Management: "*As Program Managers, we are responsible for managing all phases of design and construction from initial needs assessment, planning, budgeting, cost estimating and scheduling; through design, bid and award; to construction, occupancy and beyond.*"
- Their headquarters are in Irvine and they have a Northern California Office in Santa Clara

### CALL TO ACTION

[The Council meeting starts at 10:30 am](#). Since we do not know where the OR item (now item #12) will be placed after its removal from the Consent Agenda (and probably given a new agenda item number) and since there are five other agenda items before the consent agenda when we will learn where the \$240,000 contract item will be placed after it is pulled from the consent agenda, and since there are 16 other consent agenda items that may involve some discussion, *it is difficult to know what time exactly* the OR item will be discussed and voted upon.

Therefore, you have **two choices** for your opinion on the matter to be recorded.

### **Choice #1**

This might be easiest. Send an email, immediately, to City Council ([citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com)) with Mixed Use Library Owner's Representative Contract in the subject line. Say the following:

On June 23 the City Council directed staff "*to provide a report to City Council at the earliest possible time, **but no later than three months**, containing **detailed financial information** regarding each component of the mixed use project.*"

It has been 3 months. It is reckless and borders on malfeasance for the City to commit \$240,000 for an Owner's Representative before the City Council has the financial information it requested on June 23.

The City Council must have a period of time to absorb and digest the requested financial information in a public meeting before making a financial commitment of this size, especially in these economically uncertain times.

Please **postpone** awarding a contract until staff does what it was directed to do on June 23 by a majority vote of the Council.

## **Choice #2**

Be prepared to comment audibly on the Mixed Use Library Owner's Representative Contract whenever it comes up on Tuesday (9/22), even though this may involve watching most of the meeting (instructions at the end of this update). This is how the motion is currently stated on the [agenda](#):

Award Contract for Mixed Use Library Owner's Representative Contract to Griffin Structures, Inc. (ED) Motion to award the contract for the Mixed Use Library Owner's Representative for Phase 1 to Griffin Structures, Inc. (Santa Clara, CA) in the amount of \$240,000 and authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement in a form to be approved by the City Attorney.

We have an opportunity to make a wave that will be felt by the Council, getting as many emails to them as possible. We did it before (even though the majority did not respect our out pouring) and we can do it again. Let's get busy!!!

Jean Brocklebank (communications)  
Judi Grunstra (librarian)  
Michael Lewis (webmaster)  
Don't Bury The Library  
<https://dontburythelibrary.weebly.com/>

INSTRUCTIONS for viewing (attending) the meeting and commenting on any agenda item:

The meeting may be viewed remotely, using any of the following sources:

Online at <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-council/council-meetings>

Online at Watch – Community Television of Santa Cruz County

**PUBLIC COMMENT and ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** If you wish to comment on items 7 – 20, or during Oral Communications, please see information below.

Call at the start of the item. You will not be able to join the meeting if Council is still in Closed Session.

Call any of the numbers below. If one doesn't work, try the next one.

1-833-548-0282 (toll free)  
1-877-853-5247 (toll free)  
1-888-788-0099 (toll free)  
1-669-900-9128  
1-346-248-7799

Enter the meeting ID number: 928 2917 3723

When prompted for a Participant ID, press #

Press \*9 on your phone to “raise your hand” when the Mayor calls for public comment.

It will be your turn to speak when the Mayor unmutes you. You will hear an announcement that you have been unmuted. The timer will then be set to 2 minutes. You may hang up once you have commented on your item of interest.

NOTE: If you wish to view the meeting and don't wish to comment on an item, you can do so at any time via one of the methods above.