

August 27, 2017

Hello to 60 recipients of this update ~

How can so much confusion reign in less than one month of the [Downtown Library Advisory Committee](#) (DLAC) ongoing process?

- Why did the Work Plan for this process change three times in two months?
- Why is the Community Input process so different from what was stipulated in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued by the City of Santa Cruz?
- Why is the Community Input process different than that described in the contract with the architect firm chosen by the RFQ process?
- Why was the DLAC handed the duties originally assigned to the architect firm, as described in the City's contract with it?
- Is there any reason whatsoever to think public opinion about connecting the library with a parking structure will matter in this process?

The answer to these questions will become apparent as you read this update.

## **Interesting Background**

For those trying to follow the DLAC process, by reading information provided online and/or attending the first five lengthy DLAC meetings (beginning in mid-June) there has

been constant confusion. The confusion has been, in part, due to incomplete information provided, inconsistency in the use of terms or lack of definition of terms, mistakes on the Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) [website](#), poorly organized [Measure S](#) information on the SCPL website, and lack of transparency in decision-making, both prior to formation of the DLAC and throughout the DLAC process.

At every DLAC meeting we have found ourselves scratching our heads to make sense of what was happening within (and without) these meetings, which are open to the public (but not under Brown Act jurisdiction since this is a "temporary" committee).

To give credit where it is due, Library Director Susan Nemitz has been willing to meet with us twice, to have a cordial exchange about problems and concerns we have shared with her. She has listened to us and we have learned from her. Additionally, when we have alerted Library administration staff about major and minor mistakes on the SCPL web site or in the DLAC documents, they have been fixed. This begs the question, however, of why there are so many mistakes and what would have happened had we not been monitoring this DLAC process.

In short, this has been a make-it-up-as-they-go-along process, with the bases constantly changing for members of the public who are trying to be engaged in this important issue. We don't know where to land our feet from one week to the next. Our opinion is that these troubles are all

a function of a rush to get a Parking Garage/Library Project completed as soon as possible. Since this proposed project may well end up costing at least \$50 million dollars and since \$23 million of that amount is to be derived from the ballot approved tax Measure S, rushing is not wise. These are public monies. The public deserves the right to be deeply engaged in this process.

Furthermore, it appears that the idea of considering any other option to the Parking Garage/Library project has been perfunctorily included in this process. The fact is that everything to date, beginning last September 2016 with a meeting between Library Administration and Public Works, has been pointed to one conclusion: build the new downtown library on the first floor of a parking structure. This is surprising, because a parking garage/library project has not been mentioned once in the first five DLAC meetings by library staff or DLAC members.

## What Can You Do?

Thanks for asking! Here are four simple actions to take in the next 10 days:

- The Library has a survey to collect public opinion about **design features** for the downtown library. Fortunately there is a comment box where one may add other features one would like to see in the building. If one feels a stand alone building is a good feature, one can say so. We urge you to **take the survey!** It is found here: <https://>

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/scpl-dtn](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/scpl-dtn) Supposedly there will be another survey regarding a "site" for the library, "in the fall." We'll send an update if and why that happens.

- Attend the September 13 meeting, because this will provide opportunity to state opposition to a combined parking garage library project. This is the first time the DLAC meeting agenda provides for committee discussion of the garage/library project. Public comment at the previous 2 hour meetings has generally been put off to the end. However, this time we may see a bit of time (maybe 10 minutes) allocated to Public Comment mid-way through this one-time 3 hour meeting, in response to our request for such.
- If you cannot attend the Sept. 13, send your comments to the DLAC no later than September 8, so they will have time to review them. To send comments to the DLAC members, email them to Ivan Sumano-Vargas ([sumanovargasi@santacruzpl.org](mailto:sumanovargasi@santacruzpl.org)) and ask him to forward them to the DLAC members, which he is prepared to do.
- DBTL activist Judi Grunstra is prepared to collect signatures on a petition in opposition to the parking garage/library project. Judi plans to be at a table at the Farmer's Market on September 6 from 1:30 - 4:00. She has checked with the Market Manager to make sure this is okay. She would really like someone to sit

with her, for part or all of that time. For those who can help Judi for parts or all of that time, please email Judi at [judiriva@hotmail.com](mailto:judiriva@hotmail.com) .

Sincerely,  
Jean Brocklebank (communications)  
Michael Lewis (webmaster)  
Judi Grunstra (librarian)  
on behalf of Don't Bury The Library  
<http://dontburythelibrary.weebly.com/>