

September 24, 2017

Hello to 55 residents receiving this update ~

### Upcoming Meeting News

- Another Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC) meeting is scheduled for this coming **Thursday (9/28) at 6:00 - 8:30 pm** in the downtown library meeting room. According to the latest Work Plan, this will be the meeting where *program priorities* will be approved, although it is still not clear in this ongoing process who does the "approving." Public Comment should start about 8:00 - 8:15 pm.
- The ultimate location of the library is not currently scheduled to be a part of this meeting.
- Apparently, at this meeting the DLAC will review all community input about what residents want to see in a downtown library. The review will include public comments collected by the library for almost a year. Interestingly it will not be until the October 11 DLAC meeting that we learn the costs of various options of location for the library, so the exercise on Thursday will be more of an "*if-we-can-pay-for-it-this-what-we-want*" exercise.
- Those who care about having a library be a library, instead of being converted to an expensive and noisy community center that duplicates services already provided by other City buildings downtown will want to speak during Public Comment on the 28th. Alternatively, send a message via email by the 26th to Ivan Sumano-Vargas [sumanovargasi@santacruzpl.org](mailto:sumanovargasi@santacruzpl.org), asking him to forward your email to the DLAC. An article in the Sentinel gave this e-address: [elibrary@santacruzpl.org](mailto:elibrary@santacruzpl.org), but I have not tried it yet to confirm that the DLAC members will receive your message, so stick with Ivan.

### The Previous Meeting's News

The DLAC meeting on Sept. 13 provided a **lot** of information. It also provided an opportunity for the public to speak to the DLAC. Since City Manager Martin Bernal was in attendance, as well as Library Director Susan Nemitz and City contracted architect Noll & Tam, the public was heard by more than just the DLAC members.

About 8 - 10 people spoke during Public Comment, which began at 8 pm, two hours after the meeting commenced.

Thanks to all of you who were able to attend and provide your comments to the Committee and everyone else in the room! Thanks also to a few of you (e.g., Fred Geiger) for reporting what happened after two of us left following our comments, so I can give this summary.

Eight people spoke against the idea of a library at the first floor of a multi-story parking garage that would also include other commercial tenants. This option is being pushed by the City Manager.

Rick Longinotti gave a forceful warning that a plan that included the garage would be vigorously opposed and delay any building project for years. He added that he knows how to implement effective opposition because he had been successful with the controversial Desalination Project proposed by the City.

Bob Morgan mentioned "the yearly awards presented by the American Institute of Architects to libraries for excellence in design" and "pointed out that none of the award winners within the past 5 years -- about 50 -- had a design attached to a garage." This generated some smiles from the DLAC. Bob also complimented Martin Bernal on Traffic Demand Management (TDM) exploration, urging him to make it a robust program and focus energy there instead of a garage.

Among other things, both Debbie Bulger and Nancy (?) said they would not have voted for Measure S if it had included a garage. Debbie went further, saying that Measure S would not have passed with the garage included.

Susan Martinez had emailed the DLAC prior to the meeting. Included in her message was the following:

"As someone who has been watching this 'new library/parking garage' plan take shape with very little community input, I am not surprised at your survey on the library site. Very cleverly worded and set up to only present the City's plan as if it's a done deal with the only thing left to do but design the small details i.e. A cafe, etc.

We do not need a new library in a new location - there is plenty of room at the current library for improvements and expansions that would cost a fraction of this new edifice. With \$26 million to spend, it would be wiser to benefit the community by improving our current library, adding hours to the schedule which would also create jobs ..."

In terms of financing planned improvements to the existing building, Michael Lewis suggested to the Committee that since the City owns the building and is responsible for its maintenance that the library is essentially owed some money for all the years of deferred maintenance and building upgrades (e.g., HVAC), which resulted in many of the problems that the library experiences today.

### Tabling at the Farmer's Market

Be sure to visit those who are collaborating on the bad idea of a garage/library project as proposed to the City Council last December. Sign their petitions! These folks intend to be regulars at the downtown Farmer's Market. Interestingly, at the 9/13 DLAC meeting City Manager Bernal and Economic Development Direct Bonnie Lipscomb presented their idea for relocating the Farmer's Market to Cathcart & Front. The FM Manager has been in the planning stages of such a move. See a pdf of the summary presentation by clicking [HERE](#).

### Informative Web Site

We have updated our Don't Bury The Library web site [Documents page](#). Everything one wants to learn about the proposed downtown library process is there. New to the page are links to the presentations given by architects Noll & Tam and the City Manager at the 9/13 meeting. Of special interest is that the architect was surprised and impressed with the structural soundness of the existing library building and concluded that it would take very little to bring it to complete structural integrity for a renovation option. Of course, anyone who lived in Santa Cruz in October 1989 knows that while the rest of downtown was in a shambles, the library building withstood the 7.1 earthquake. A good building, ready for creative remodeling.

Let's keep engaged in this process!

Jean Brocklebank (Communications)

Judi Grunstra (Librarian and Researcher)

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