

DBTL Update #34

Hello Library Supporters and Friends ~

It's time for an update. This one has miscellaneous news and announcements - everything is hitched to everything else. Of course.

Library in Garage On Hold

The project approved by the former City Council has been placed on hold, while lots of back and front room activity takes place. We're sure city staff, the Library Director and others who championed the library-in-parking-garage project are still lobbying toward that end. However, a new council that must vote to proceed with each step toward that end and the new council is not the former council, is it?!

I emailed the city's Economic Development Director Bonnie Lipscomb today and asked the status of their work on a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the project approved by the former City Council last September. I included a copy of our Blueprint for a REstored and Revitalized Downtown Library for her review. Here is Bonnie's quick reply: *"Yes, the RFP is still on hold. We want to have a session with Council to make sure we are all on the same page. Thanks for sharing your Blueprint. I hope we are able to navigate a path forward that works for the community."*

News About Our Blueprint

- As mentioned in our last update (1/25/19), we met with both Justin Cummings and Drew Glover, to share our Blueprint for a Restored and Revitalized Downtown Library. On 1/28 we also met with the third new council member Donna Meyers.
- We have a meeting with Library Director Susan Nemitz on March 6th, to discuss the Blueprint with her. We'll report the outcome of that conversation in Update #35.
- On January 27, we were invited guests for an hour long [Community TV](#) interview. Joining us was Jozseph Schultz. It was a good conversation facilitated with host Steve Pleich. We talked about the future of Downtown in general and the library project in particular. We were able to discuss details about the proposed project and our campaign to restore and revitalize the downtown library. One may view the interview here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5snmlqWVM&feature=youtu.be>
- We were invited guests on Bruce Bratton's Universal Grapevine (KZSC 88.1 FM) last Tuesday (2/26) at 7:30 pm, the same night as a very packed City Council meeting. Bruce's programs are only archived for two weeks. One may be able to hear the 30 minute program about the library by going here <https://www.radiofreeamerica.com/schedule/kzsc> and clicking on February 26, then on Universal Grapevine. Unfortunately, one has to listen to the first 30 minutes before our interview begins at 7:30 pm, but that first program is quite interesting itself, so give it a try!

City Council Study Session 3/19/19

Meanwhile, the City Council is set to review downtown parking policy at a special Study Session on Tuesday **March 19 at 7:00 pm** in Council Chambers. The meeting is open to the public. Plan to attend or watch on [Community TV](#). This meeting may result in more than the parking garage project (and its incorporated first floor library) being simply "on hold."

News About Envisioning A Town Commons

What happens if a new parking garage is not built on Lot 4? A newly named **Downtown Commons Advocates** group, which had its fourth meeting last week, is working on an alternative vision for Lot 4.

DC Advocates is a group of business and community members who love the Farmers Market and want the Market to have a permanent home on its existing location. Their vision is for a Town Commons on Lot 4 that will be designed around the Heritage trees, will include some surface parking, as well as the weekly Farmers Market, possibly the monthly Antique Faire, and other public uses.

DC Advocates have invited Portland architect Mark Lakeman to lead a workshop -- "**Imagining the Farmers Market Commons**" -- on March 29 at Loudon Nelson Community Center. You're all invited. One can get more information at the [Eventbrite page](#). Donation will be \$10 - \$20 per person.

That's a wrap for now!

Jean, Judi, and Michael
on behalf of [Don't Bury The Library](#)