

December 11, 2017

First, the bad news.

Everything the DLAC has done to date (since its first June meeting to last Sunday's poor excuse of a meeting to elicit community input) has been formulated to present any renovation option of the Downtown Library in the worst light possible, in the most blatantly biased and negative fashion. The result is that the DLAC has been herded along like sheep in a pasture to rue a renovation and embrace the only other possible choice: a new library in a parking garage, which is now euphemistically called a "multi-use" structure.

In fact, at last Sunday's so-called public meeting, the public was asked to discuss four options that had price tags associated with them, but was **not** given the actual cost analyses provided by the consultant architects (Noll & Tam) on October 25. Instead the public was handed opinions about what each Option would provide. Or not. These opinions were contained in the Summary of Construction Options distributed at the 12/3 meeting. Adding to the bias, Option A (Partial Renovation) was presented incorrectly, leaving out a minimum of two important features and including a red herring about a poor roof. When this was mentioned to a library official, an excuse was made that the Summary of Construction Options was a "work in progress" and they had been working on it up to the last minute for the 12/3 early afternoon meeting. Thus, the public was mis-informed

and asked to comment on misinformation.

Now, the good news.

We still have the ability to shine a light on the connivance of the biased process of the past 6 months. We have the ability to state for the record that the community has not been properly allowed to be engaged in how the public's money is to be spent on the Downtown Library. We have the ability to state for the record that the cost analyses presented to the public, of the only two options that come close to the \$23 million budget of Measure S are deliberately skewed in favor of one and against the other.

The last DLAC meeting is this **Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 6 pm** (upstairs meeting room of downtown library). The Committee will make their recommendations at this meeting. There are 60 recipients of this e-update and if everyone either attends that meeting or sends an email to the DLAC by Tuesday evening at the latest, we can make a difference.

We do not know what the DLAC will ultimately recommend on Wednesday evening, but if the past six months of nine meetings is any indication, the wheels are greased and rolling as far away as possible from a Renovation toward a Parking Garage. I suggest we be prepared for that probability.

How to Best Stop the Runaway Train

Since The Campaign for Sensible Transportation is pounding on the negatives of a parking garage and doing it really well, rather than our comments focusing on negatives about the parking garage (although we must oppose it in one brief, clear sentence every time we interact in our comments to the DLAC) I think it best we state the positives of support for the Renovation Option. And they are??? Glad you asked!

Positives for Renovation Option - Includes the following:

- Required seismic work
- Replacement of two elevators (stated by Noll & Tam at an October DLAC meeting)
- All new electrical distribution
- New skylight at stairwell
- Replacement of heating and cooling and branch ducts
- AV Equipment (\$132,000)
- Public Art (\$271,588)
- Computers and Printers (\$308,000)
- Library Graphics and Signage (\$110,000)
- Moveable Furnishings and Equipment (\$1,100,000)
- Library size remains at 44,000 square feet
- Even if 8000 sq ft is excluded from the partial renovation, at least initially, the remaining 36,000 sq ft is about what Watsonville has as public space, and they have pretty much everything that the DLAC identified as programming needs.

Lastly, suppose the Friends of the SC Public libraries did some fundraising for Public Art, then the total cost estimate for Option A would be reduced by \$271,588. Or, that money could be spent on a fresh coat of paint. Instead of buying all new Moveable Furnishings and Equipment, that \$1,100,000 could be spent on solar panels for the entire building! On 11/30/17, the Library received an estimate from Alterra Solar for all existing library branch buildings. The cost for the downtown branch is \$738,176. That leaves some of the \$1,100,000 for roof work to accommodate solar panels. Cool, huh?!

How to Send an Email to the Committee

If unable to attend the 12/13 6 pm meeting, email your comments to the DLAC via this library staff e-address: sumanovargasi@santacruzpl.org. Put Comments to the DLAC in the subject line.

Let's get busy and fight for sufficiency and sensibility for a beautifully upgraded, modernized, renovated downtown library!

Jean

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