

Update #48 - December 21, 2019

Greetings!

Here is what we know as of December 20th.

We'll start by asking what happened at the 12/13 Library Subcommittee meeting??
Good question. We're still scratching our heads trying to make sense of it.

Abe Jayson and Katie Stuart presented virtually the same slides & information they presented on October 24th. Nothing much new in their presentation, although the Final Report itself provided lots of cost assessment details. Only the public asked questions (via 3x5 cards). Subcommittee members asked none. Of interest was that Jayson was not really speaking to the Subcommittee who sat in the front row of the audience. So, double-checking the Subcommittee website, we noticed that the 12/13 meeting was announced thusly: Community Presentation of Jayson Architect's Final Report. Even though it was not advertised to the general public.

Susan Nemitz also spoke emotionally to the public audience, after Jayson and Stuart, making the Jayson proposal look as bad as possible, thus indirectly advocating for the mixed-use project to fill the dismal void.

Immediately after the meeting ended, I quickly greeted Abe Jayson and mentioned his timeline and history of this project as presented in one of his slides. I informed him that DBTL had asked for both an independent study of renovation and a like study of a new library in a garage - exactly what is happening now - more than two years ago. Jayson expressed surprise to learn this. I emphasized how much further along we would have been had it been done right from the beginning. Jayson agreed and then remarked "you can't take back time." It was certainly not lost on Jayson that construction costs could have been less and renovation/rebuild benefits been greater had the City gotten their RFP act together over two years ago.

What comes next???

At the 12/13 meeting, we learned that there will be more Subcommittee hours for meetings with stakeholders (presumably with the same stakeholders as at the June, August and September stakeholder meetings. DBTL will be amongst those stakeholders!

The Request for Proposals for the Mixed-Use library was issued December 15th. The deadline for submittals is January 24th. The RFP is available by clicking [HERE](#). The contract will be awarded no later than February 5th. Then the architectural firm chosen by the City will no doubt need at least a month and probably closer to two months to prepare its final report for the Library Subcommittee. This will advance the process forward to mid-March. [As an aside, the Recall election will have been decided on 3/3/20 and the City Council may have new members].

Our Feelings Going Forward

In an email DBTL's Judi Grunstra urged the Subcommittee "to heed Abe Jayson's professional observation that the location of the existing library makes sense from a city planning viewpoint – i.e. in our Civic Center. This matters to many people. There has been no community consensus about what would take the place of the library at this location. That is not good city planning."

Judi continued: "Even if Measure S (short-sightedly) did not ask voters for enough funding to have a "civic showpiece," with your support we can move ahead with the [Jayson rebuild proposal], refining it to become an important and beloved focal point of our downtown. I don't agree with Ms. Nemitz that the community will be disappointed with this renovation. Mr. Jayson has the obvious enthusiasm and experience to create, with the community, a very good project."

Spot on, Judi!

With wishes for Merriness in this Holiday Season,
Jean, Michael, and Judi