

Hello Friends of the Downtown Library ~

Isn't it nice that there is no official Downtown Chapter of the non-profit organization called Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries (fscpl.org)? There are six official chapters (Aptos, Boulder Creek, Capitola, Felton, La Selva Beach and Scotts Valley). Downtown is not one of them. So, for the moment, we are taking a bit of liberty in our greetings on this Update.

Now to news bits and there are quite a few!

New DBTL Web Pages

- We have archived 13 of the previous DBTL Updates, in case anyone wants to catch up. Update #14 was a two liner, so we did not include it. To see the new Updates page click here: <http://dontburythelibrary.weebly.com/updates.html>
- We added a page especially for the Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC). This page includes our opinion of the DLAC process, which is: ***From the very beginning there were problems with the eight month DLAC process, including, but not limited to, lack of adherence to the call for a "minimum of three meetings" to "engage citizens and stakeholders in meaningful dialogues" concerning the proposed plan to abandon the now historical downtown library, an integral part of the City's Civic Center. The process basically went downhill from there.*** To see the DLAC page, click here: <http://dontburythelibrary.weebly.com/dlac.html>
- Like us, some of you may be volunteers for the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, or may have donated to them over the years. Because FSCPL has engaged in an extensive lobbying campaign to push acceptance of the DLAC recommendation for a library in a parking structure, we have added a FSCPL web page. DBTL is challenging the accuracy of the content of the newsletters going out in the name of FSCPL. To see the new FSCPL web page, go here: <http://dontburythelibrary.weebly.com/fscpl-campaign.html>

Downtown Commission Meeting

On March 22 the Downtown Commission (DC) was presented with the DLAC

Report. The public was allowed 1-1/2 minutes each to address the Commission after the presentation. About 10 people spoke, mostly from the Campaign for Sensible Transportation, including Rick Longinotti whose major point was that the parking garage would be subsidizing the library. This is important because, as DBTL informed the Commission by email:

- Our main concern for your Commission's consideration is whether it is appropriate (or even legal) to use [Parking District deficiency fees](#) to construct a parking garage that will also include a 44,000 square foot library as a tenant of the parking structure. The foundation, walls and roof of the proposed library will be built with deficiency fees. ***That 44,000 square feet will not be able to be used for parking spaces.*** Is a library or affordable housing, both of which will reduce parking spaces in a parking garage built with parking deficiency fees appropriate or legal?

Judi Grunstra, active in DBTL and wearing her Don't Bury The Library sign, also spoke at the meeting, informing the Commission of the lack of real public involvement in the DLAC process. Interestingly, a DLAC member actually told the DC that one of the things they did hear from the public was that people were opposed to a library in a garage. Thanks, Judi, for being there early in the morning of a very rainy day!

A New Wrinkle

Just as the City of Santa Cruz is trying to use Measure S funds to build a new library in a parking structure -- something never mentioned in the Measure S ballot language -- so also is the City of Scotts Valley trying to use Measure S funds to build a theater adjacent to their library. Additionally, the County, led by Supervisor Leopold, is trying to build a so-called "Live Oak Library Annex" to be located 1/2 mile away from the Live Oak Library between the Simpkins Swim Center and the Boys and Girls Club. What's up with that? None of these projects meet the "where necessary" construction phrase of Measure S language.

DBTL will be contacting the Joint Powers Authority for the systemwide library and asking for oversight of Measure S funds to be placed on the agenda of their May 3 meeting. Stay tuned for an update if and when that is secured. Meanwhile, there are two news articles on our webs site, one about the Scotts Valley project

(3/21) and another one of Stephen Kessler's most recent editorial (3/16). Both can be read here: <http://dontburythelibrary.weebly.com/news-and-articles.html>

City Council Meeting Update

For now all we know is that the Council will not have the DLAC Report on its April 10 agenda. It is even starting to look unlikely that it will be on their April 24 agenda. As soon as we know, you will know!

That's a wrap for now. This newsletter generates feedback from some of its 82 recipients. We thank you for your helpful thoughts, suggestions and further questions. As always, feel free to share these Updates with anyone you know for sure is interested in our campaign goals. Our Mission remains: **Keep the Downtown Library Branch in its current location -- remodeled, renovated, refurbished, rehabilitated, and renewed.**

Jean Brocklebank (communications)

Judi Grunstra (librarian)

Michael Lewis (webmaster)

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