



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: APRIL 23, 2018

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE NEW MAIN LIBRARY PROJECT

ISSUE:

Receive an update on the new Main Library project.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive and file this update on the new Main Library project.

BACKGROUND:

On May 16, 2017, the City Council approved: 1) the new Main Library as a Measure Z funding priority with a resolution for reimbursement of the costs for design of the Main Library project; and 2) the Professional Consultant Services Agreement (PSA) with Johnson Favaro Architects for architectural and engineering design services for a new two-story, approximately 40,000-square-foot project located at 3911 University Avenue.

On August 14, 2017, a special meeting of the Board of Library Trustees provided an opportunity to view the new Main Library design renderings and provide feedback for City Council consideration. The Board unanimously voted to recommend City Council approve the proposed Main Library design.

On October 3, 2017, the City Council approved the three-story design of the new Main Library project and authorized the City Manager, or his designee, to proceed with bidding the project for construction. Concept designs in the proposed Main Library project are a reflection and culmination of extensive research, community meetings, and professional experience of staff and the design team.

DISCUSSION:

The subject property of the new Main Library is in the Seventh Street Historic District and is currently occupied with vacant bus terminals, a former police sub-station and related structures constructed in the 1980s. In order to proceed with construction of the project, the City must remove the existing Riverside Transit Agency Downtown Terminal and Riverside Police

Department North Neighborhood Policing Facility, which include terminal and sub-station buildings as well as ancillary structures. The project also requires a Street Vacation of the right-of-way segment comprising Fairmount Boulevard between Mission Inn and University Avenues to facilitate future consolidation with the adjoining City-owned parcels and create a 2.65-acre site for the new Main Library project.

On March 8, 2018, the Planning Commission received a report to consider the Street Vacation of Fairmount Boulevard to facilitate construction of the new Main Library project. Following discussion, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council: 1) determine that the proposed project is exempt from further California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as the project will not have a significant effect on the environment; and 2) approve the Street Vacation project based on the findings outlined in the staff report.

On March 21, 2018 the Cultural Heritage Board received a report requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct the new Main library within the Seventh Street Historic District that would include a City Archive, a 100-seat community meeting room, and Friends of the Library bookstore, and demolish existing noncontributing bus terminals, former police sub-station, and related ancillary structures. Following discussion, the Cultural Heritage Board failed to approve the request and voted to continue the item to the April 18, 2018 Cultural Heritage Board meeting.

Parking Survey

Staff conducted polling for seven weeks (February 15 – March 5) at the existing Main Library site on what method of transportation customers used to arrive at the current location. Customers self-selected what method of transportation they used whether it was driving, walking, riding the bus or other. Results were the following:

Mode of Transportation	Total	Percentage
Drive	5,959	56%
Walk	3,439	33%
Bus	744	7%
Other	418	4%
Total Surveyed	10,560	

Based on data collected at the existing Main Library site, there is an approximate average of 17 cars per hour parked at the current location.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Erin Christmas, Acting Library Director
 Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager

Attachment: Main Library Parking Survey