



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: JUNE 25, 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.

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.

The Cultural Heritage Board continued the report on April 18, 2018, and, following a discussion, approved the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct the new Main Library within the Seventh Street Historic District.

DISCUSSION:

Since the last Board of Library Trustees meeting on April 23, 2018, the City Council met on May 22nd and voted on to vacate the right-of-way segment comprising Fairmount Boulevard between Mission Inn and University Avenues to facilitate future consolidation with the adjoining City-owned parcels, which is approximately 328 feet in length, 60 feet in width, and 0.46 acres in area. The purpose of the street vacation is to facilitate the future construction of the new Main Library project.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Public Streets, Highways, and Services Easements Vacation Law as well as Chapter 19.890 of the Zoning Code, the City may initiate a proceeding to vacate a public right of way if it determines that it is no longer needed for street purposes. The report submitted to the City Council included the following facts to support the proposed street vacation:

1. The proposed area to be vacated will no longer be needed for street purposes or for access to adjacent parcels.
2. Properties to the east and west of the proposed vacation will retain public access from University and Mission Inn Avenues, and the area to be vacated will not be necessary for access to any parcels.
3. The proposed vacation will not impact access to any other parcels as all other streets and alleys will remain in their current configuration, and the proposed vacation will not impact east-west vehicular or pedestrian circulation on either Mission Inn or university Avenue.

The project was found to be exempt from further California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review as the project will not have significant effects on the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Erin Christmas, Acting Library Director
Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager

Attachment: Main Library Project Timeline