



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2019

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUBJECT: SPC. JESUS S. DURAN EASTSIDE LIBRARY SITE SELECTION UPDATE

ISSUE:

Receive an update on community outreach feedback for selecting a new site for the proposed SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive an update on community outreach feedback for selecting a new site for the proposed SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library.

BACKGROUND:

On March 27, 2018, the Board of Library Trustees received an update on the proposed site of the Bobby Bonds Sports Complex (Bobby Bonds) located at 2060 University Avenue for the new SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library (Eastside Library), and voted unanimously to consider this site for the new Eastside Library location.

On May 21, 2018, the new proposed site for the Eastside Library was discussed at the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) meeting. At this meeting, Park and Recreation Commissioners commented on the importance of hosting bilingual community meetings to discuss this site, the need for a thriving library on the Eastside, and that a new Eastside Library does not block the Cesar Chavez Community Center.

On June 7, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., a presentation for the Eastside Neighborhood Forum was conducted at the Cesar Chavez Community Center.

On July 12, 2018, at 5 p.m. a walking tour of the Cesar Chavez Community Center, Bobby Bonds and Ottawa and University sites were held for the community. Present for the tour was Erin Christmas, Interim Library Director, Adolfo Cruz, Parks Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Director, Carl Carey, General Services Director, Miguel Lujano, Legislative Field Representative Ward 2, George Guzman, Administrative Services Manager, Trustees Tate and Yonezawa, and 21 members of the community.

An informal poll was taken from the community members of what site they preferred and 15 were in favor of the Bobby Bonds site (Attachment 1) and 6 were in favor of the Ottawa/University site (Attachment 2). Additionally, signatures were received from 150 community members in favor of keeping a library in the Eastside neighborhood.

On October 22, 2018, the Board of Library Trustees received an update from Director Erin Christmas. The update included a report of a walking tour of the Bobby Bonds site which included Councilmember Melendrez, General Services Director Carl Carey, and PRCS Director Adolfo Cruz. Director's Christmas and Cruz will provide a joint presentation to the PRC and the Board of Library Trustees in January 2019.

Following numerous community meetings and substantial community input, City Staff have identified the parking lot area and current Children's Health, Education, Enrichment and Resource (C.H.E.E.R.) building facing University Avenue adjacent to the Cesar Chavez Community Center and the soccer fields located at Bobby Bonds, 2060 University Avenue, as a possible location for a proposed new Eastside Library. (See attachment 3 for a timeline listing all community meetings).

As this is already a City-owned site, there would be no land acquisition costs. There is a deed restriction associated with a Land and Water Conservation (LWC) grant that was used to purchase and install a playground at the park. The deed restriction and LWC grant contract provisions stipulate that Bobby Bonds park site (depicted in a boundary map attached to the deed restriction) "shall not be converted to other than public outdoor recreation use" without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. The PRCS Department will request authorization for the portion of the park to be converted into a library from the Secretary of the Interior.

Additionally, pursuant to the Park Preservation Act §5404, a City may, after holding a public hearing, change use of park land if the amount of the property being "acquired" for new use is less than ten percent of the total park area but not more than an acre. If the property being "acquired" for new use is more than ten percent of the total park area, then substitute park land and facilities must be acquired. The Park Preservation Act requirements are satisfied in this case as the new use would be for general library services to the public, which is considered a park purpose under this Act and is less than ten percent of the total park area.

General Services Department staff have determined that this location is large enough to accommodate a 15,000 square foot one-story public library. With placement of the proposed Eastside Library at this location, it will necessitate removal of the Children's Health, Education, Enrichment and Resource (C.H.E.E.R.) Center and adjacent playground. This building is currently used primarily for a Monday to Thursday Time for Tots program, the Riverside Unified School District's Family Resource Center satellite office, the Healthy Eating Active Living Zone and the Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention grant funded programs. These programs, and needed offices, would be moved into the Cesar Chavez Community Center and children in the Tiny Tot program would use the playground located at the West end of the park. Additionally, with construction of the proposed 15,000 square foot library, staff proposes modifying the existing courtyard area to accommodate an approximate 15,000 square foot shaded multipurpose meeting area. (See attachment 1: Possible Site Location)

Setting the Library footprint back from University Avenue will:

1. Maintain necessary street visibility to the parking lot, a significant safety consideration

2. Have no impact to the number of existing parking spaces
3. Ensure adequate green space, and
4. Preserve the view of the Chavez Community Center from the Ottawa and University intersection.

Placing the Eastside Library at Bobby Bonds, with a new shaded meeting space, will provide opportunities for the Library and PRCS staff to collaborate on program opportunities for the community. Some of the programs may include joint summer programs that encourage youth to participate at both facilities, healthy living workshops to encourage better eating and exercise habits, and more programming to build early literacy skills.

The Library also provides security guard services (Monday to Thursday 11:15 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 10:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.) at the current Eastside Library and would continue to do so at this location.

Following approval by both the Park and Recreation Commission and the Board of Library Trustees, staff anticipate taking this item to the City Council for approval of the proposed site and authorization to move forward with issuance of a request for proposal for a design firm to complete Phase 1 Design Services at a cost of up to \$100,000.

DISCUSSION:

On January 30, 2019, the Park and Recreation Commission received an update on community outreach feedback for selecting a new site for the proposed SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library and, with five members present, unanimously recommended the Bobby Bonds Sports Complex at 2060 University Avenue as the location for a proposed SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library to the City Council for their consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this update. Costs associated with Phase 1 Design Services would be paid with the \$100,000 of Measure Z funding approved by City Council on May 16, 2017, for a new possible Eastside Library. There would be no General Fund dollars used for Phase 1 Design Services. Construction of the library has not been considered nor incorporated in the FY 2018-2020 Budget.

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Certified as to
Availability of funds: Enriquez Edward, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager
Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

Attachments:

1. Possible Site Location
2. Ottawa/University site

3. Timeline