



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – July 8, 2020 Agenda Item 4

### **Work Session**

Continued discussion of proposed new Library exterior designs, and the results of the resident survey.

### **Recommended Council Action**

Hear the update by Architect Greg Lukmire and resident survey results; determine Council preference for a Library exterior design.

### **Context with Key Issues**

The Takoma Park, Maryland Library does not meet ADA requirements, has significant problems with its heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and does not meet space needs for programming and young adult services. For this reason, the Library renovation project was begun in 2015 and public discussions and concept design work has proceeded since then.

On April 15, 2020, the City Council considered and voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager or her designee to enter into a contract with RR/MM Lukmire Architects for: continued concept design and potential detailed design and engineering for Library renovation, at a cost of \$499,835.

In June of 2020, an online resident survey was conducted of several proposed exterior building designs. The survey results will be presented, with a discussion of the key points and attributes of the different designs presented by the Architect.

### **Council Priority**

A Livable Community for All: Our local public library serves residents of all ages, including a significant number of school and day care classes. It offers free programs by noted authors and illustrators, reading readiness for ESL parents, book discussion groups for adults, extensive collections of print and digital resources, Spanish and French programs, and public access computer use with dedicated staff. A larger, more comfortable building will enable us to address the needs of more community residents with evolving and up to date resources for years to come.

### **Environmental Considerations**

The new Library building floor will be raised to withstand increased flood potential due to climate change. Elimination of the health and/or potential safety hazards for Library users posed by: fiberglass insulation, asbestos in the library foyers, mold where ceiling has leaked, wood roof framing, frequent loss of functioning HVAC during hot or cold weather, and leaking of HVAC equipment, and apertures for birds, small rodents or insects to enter the building. Green building standards would be incorporated into a new building.

### **Fiscal Considerations**

There is \$9.8 million available for an approximately \$9.8 million project. The available funds are not easily used for other uses or as savings to taxpayers. The architect has been asked to have detailed information on project components to be considered by Council in making design and spending decisions. One of the costs of the project is for a specialist to oversee the construction activities and to review invoices and change orders, as was done successfully in the Auditorium, Public Works, and Phase II Community Center projects, to keep the project on budget.

**Racial Equity Considerations**

The resources of the Takoma Park Library are used heavily by children and seniors of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, including immigrants in the community. Library programs are free to all, regardless of jurisdiction. The Library and Computer Center are within walking distance of five schools and many multifamily buildings. A program room will enable us to provide more programs that address equity issues without limiting family and after-school use of our children's room. A new building will enable the provision of family and gender neutral restrooms. Also, it will enable us to provide dedicated shelves and study space for young adults – a group that is currently underserved in our small library.

**Attachments and Links**

<http://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/library-renovation/>