



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – September 28, 2022 Agenda Item 9

Presentation

Library Project Update

Recommended Council Action

Receive presentation.

Context with Key Issues

The Library and Community Center Project is moving forward, with the following actions occurring since the last City Council meeting on July 27, 2022:

Lease agreement: A lease agreement was negotiated and executed for a space at the Hampshire Place center at 7505 New Hampshire Avenue, Suites 201-208. The lease will secure the space for City operations through September 30, 2025.

Relocation: The Library is currently relocating for the duration of construction. TPM Moving Services has been working with the Library to pack and move all necessary contents to continue operations at Hampshire Place, including dismantling shelving at the original site and reassembling it at Hampshire Place in the finalized floorplan.

Space planning: Arcadis, our Construction Manager, prepared a floorplan in consultation with Hampshire Place's structural engineer that the staff and movers are using to fill the space. Special considerations included a limited area of slab-on-grade flooring that is required to support the 100 pounds per square foot load bearing requirement for taller bookshelves.

Space outfitting and reopening: IT has been working on an accelerated timeline to provide networking and security infrastructure to the interim space. Their work may be completed before the start of October. The remainder of outfitting tasks include an electrician to provide power supply to all necessary workspaces, which should be completed by mid-October. The Library will reopen as soon as possible after outfitting is completed.

Special projects:

- Mosaic: A contractor has been selected to remove and transport the mosaic into storage. Staff are planning to apply for grants to support funding for the eventual reinstallation of the mosaic, along with any necessary repairs.
- Tree repurposing: We still plan to use the largest parts of the tree trunks to create furniture, providing the wood is suitable. Staff have been exploring options for use of the remainder of the wood above the furniture-yielding portions.

Construction timeline: As of 9/23, we are still waiting for comments from the Department of Permitting Services so that the full Notice to Proceed can be issued. We could receive DPS feedback any time in the next few weeks.

Solar panels: The solar panels have been removed at the Library and Community Center to prepare for the upcoming construction.

Parking: Staff is mindful of the impact that this project will have on the availability of parking at the Community Center, and we are working to ensure that any opportunities to mitigate inconvenience are taken. Staff have collected data across departments to determine the number of parking spots required for staff who commute by car, and a plan will be made to maximize the number of spots available for community members who need to drive to the Community Center.

Communication:

- Schools: The City is communicating regularly with neighboring schools to ensure that they are kept apprised of the construction schedule and the implications for parking and after school activities.
- In-person: A public meeting was held during the August recess to inform the public of the plans, schedule, and design. Doyle Construction was also introduced at this meeting, and they have expressed interest in participating in outreach activities with Library and City staff.
- Digital outreach: City staff are utilizing a variety of platforms through which we can reach residents digitally, including the Insider e-newsletter, social media, and the City's website. We are also sending emails to all City staff that serve as internal communication and keep everyone informed about upcoming plans and the impact it will have on their scheduling and parking. Additionally, the newlibrary@takomaparkmd.gov email address was established to route related inquiries to multiple staff, ensuring that responses would be prompt.
- Print outreach: The monthly print newsletter has a section authored by the Library, and Library staff are working with the Communications office to ensure that adequate information is being communicated through that channel.

Groundbreaking ceremony: When an updated construction schedule has been set, staff intend to schedule a groundbreaking ceremony for the public.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All
Engaged, Responsive & Service-oriented Government
Community Development for an Improved & Equitable Quality of Life

Environmental Considerations

None.

Fiscal Considerations

All expenses related to the lease and space outfitting have already been approved City Council.

Racial Equity Considerations

None.

Attachments and Links