

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the
General Purposes Committee
meeting of Richmond City
Council held on Monday,
December 14, 2020.

From: [Jordan Ove](#)
To: [MayorandCouncillors](#)
Cc: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION | Library Notes re: ST CC + L Site Selection for GP Meeting
Date: December 11, 2020 10:57:57 AM

Good afternoon Mayor Brodie and Councillors,

As Vice Chair of the Library Board I writing to you on behalf of the library and my fellow trustees to indicate our full support for the Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Replacement program and to voice our support for the site selection recommendation that is forth coming.

I have been a member of the Building Committee since its inception in March 2018 and I have appreciated the collaborative planning process that has resulted in a cohesive Steveston Community Center and Library program. I am confident that the ~60,350 square foot program with a ~12,400 square foot library will meet the long term needs of Richmond residents, and allow for expanded services to community members of all ages.

As a Richmond resident, I personally appreciate and see the value of the colocation of the library and community centre and the synergies it presents for both service and programming opportunities such as:

- Introducing library services to community centre users and community centre services to library users
- Collaborative early literacy learning with the preschool programs to digital literacy learning with seniors clubs and groups

The Steveston Branch Library is the second busiest branch in the Richmond Public Library system despite being our smallest space at ~4,000 square feet. We have over 37,000 library users that reside in Steveston, and on a monthly basis we have:

- More than 2,200 holds picked up
- An average of 15,000 library user visits
- Customers borrow 25,000 physical items
- Over 1,100 customers uses of our DVD dispenser
- Approximately 850 people attending programs
- 950 people coming to use 6 computers

During the pandemic the Steveston branch had over 3,500 people use the Curbside Holds Pickup service between June through August which is two times much as our other branches that offered Curbside Holds Pickup, and since reopening in September, the demand for holds has climbed to over 2,700 holds per month. Our community clearly relies on our library for not only books, but our Branches and staff provide vital services that are integral to an engaged, informed and welcoming community. We:

- Support newcomers in feeling welcome in their new community
- Assist unemployed residents in preparing for and finding work
- Teach seniors new tech skills to connect with family and friends, reducing isolation
- Help new parents to bond with their babies and develop their language skills
- Provide a safe space for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather, learn and connect

Expanding from 4,000 square feet to 12,400 square feet will enable us to open new opportunities to provide additional and innovative services to support council in their goals, and fulfill the needs of the community.

In consideration of community consultation feedback, the library fully supports the Building Committee preferred Site 3 option as it:

Reduces any interruptions in library service or extended facility closures, meeting the need to keep library services accessible during construction

- Supports a 2-3 story facility that allows for maximum flexibility in service design and delivery
- Meets the other key location criteria of the program – mindful footprint given the park setting, consideration of existing residential neighbourhood, high visibility from street and easy access by various modes of transit

While there are still many steps to take in being able to realize this program for our residents, I am excited to be here today seeking your endorsement for the staff recommended and Building Committee's preferred site selection and then seeing this go forward to Council for approval.

Thank you,

-Jordan

Jordan Oye

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