

November 25, 2022

Ms. Joanne Havelock
Chair, Friends of the Regina Public Library



Dear Ms. Havelock,

RE: Delegation Submission of September 20, 2022

Thank you for the submission you provided to the RPL Board of Directors for their meeting on September 27, 2022.

We appreciate the passion you demonstrate about the current building and will consider it as we move forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to address some of the suggestions and questions in your submission.

FRPL suggests that RPL provide print copies in the Reference section at Central Library Branch for a number of Central Library reports and Board work reports. Thank you for this recommendation – we agree this is a good idea and have provided print copies of Central Library reports for loan at Central Library.

Where is the step where the RPL will put any proposals forward to the public for discussion at a public meeting and other options for input?

I can assure you that we will certainly be providing further opportunity for Reginans to voice their feedback at key points as the project moves forward.

Is this another example of “demolition by neglect” so common in Regina?

We have addressed issues as they arise to the extent that we can, however some aren't fixable without considerable costs, time, and effects on service delivery.

RPL is going to review the functions of the local branches after it deals with Central Library. Isn't this going about the situation a bit back to front?

Central Library and the magnitude of its issues create significant risk that must be mitigated. Branch renewal is included in the Board's strategic plan as a priority. Once we get Central renewal moving forward, we will continue with branch renewal.

Adding onto City Hall parkade for additional parking for RPL staff. With all the parking lots downtown, is this really necessary? RPL could choose to compensate staff for renting parking spaces.

Adding onto the City Hall parkade is not included in the Board's preference for a new Central Library.

Is the publicly stated guesstimate of \$50 million building renovation costs based on the 2015 Group2 table on the short, medium, and long-term costs of building rehabilitation on page 3 in the executive summary? How much have this figure represents work that the RPL has already completed, and therefore not an additional cost?

The \$50M estimate was a rough point-in-time estimate based on work in the Group2 report and the 2017 update by Deloitte.

Libraries such as the Calgary Library can cost up in the range of \$250M. What is RPL envisioning? What is the price range?

Our pre-Covid estimate was \$124M for a new build.

The library is a very important part of downtown. But should it be the only public indoor space in downtown Regina? Should it be the only place where people facing life challenges get support?

There are a number of other places for people facing life challenges to seek support, including the Salvation Army, Carmichael Outreach, and Souls Harbour Rescue Mission. Public library services offered through the Central Library are available to all Reginans, no matter their life circumstance.

Ms. Havelock, I hope this answers the questions you raised in your submission. If you have more questions, let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Barber', is written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Barber

Library Director & CEO, Regina Public Library