

STAFF REPORT

MTG. DATE:	July 20, 2022
TO:	Library Board
FROM:	JJ Larson – Deputy Administrator/Director of Public Works & Utilities
RE:	Library Planning – Items for consideration

OVERVIEW

The Library Board has been taking the necessary steps to plan for the construction of a Village Library. The capital campaign feasibility study is underway and on schedule to be completed by August. The Library Board is likely to recommend a timeline and appropriate budgetary planning steps that would result in construction of a Library in 2025, and the opening in 2026.

The Village Board has taken some steps in recent years in support of bringing a Library to the Village. Trustees have scored the Library as top priority for a number of years in a row. Three years ago the Library Planning Committee was formed and following submission of that Committee's final report, the formal Library Board was approved. The 2022 budget funded the Library Board's budget requests: sharing in the cost of the feasibility study with the Friends group and impact fee study and implementation.

Moving forward into the 2023 budget discussions and beyond, the financial impact for continued progress toward evaluating whether to construct and operate a library gets significantly more expensive. While immediate costs in 2023 will not have a significant impact on the overall Village budget, approval of those funds should take into consideration all of the potential future costs. It is recommended that the expenditure of 2023 dollars not proceed without full commitment to these future costs by the Library Board and the Village Board.

With that in mind I wanted to offer some items for the Library Board's consideration as potential recommendations to the Village Board.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Advisory Referendum in Fall of 2022. Consider putting an Advisory Referendum (i.e. non-binding) question on the November ballot prior to expending over a million dollars on architecture and engineering. Staff can work with Ehlers to get an appropriate "property tax impact per \$100,000 in home value" that could be expected if a library is constructed and operated, to be specified in the referendum question. This would get clearer direction from the community regarding their support for a library, during a popular election.

Update of the Facility Needs Study. It's understood that the Friends of the Cottage Grove Library have identified the site they currently own as the site of the future library. However, the Library Board and Village Board have not formally identified a location as the site of the potential future library. If the Library Board is in agreement that this location should be the ultimate building site, a motion to recommend designating it as such could be made to the Village Board. Or, consideration could be given to updating the existing Village facility needs study with a future library factored into the scope of the broader facility needs that will be realized by the Village in the near future. Direction could be given to investigate library development on the current Friend's-owned land and other potential sites, including the existing Municipal Services Building site. Construction costs could be updated for Library and Village Board consideration in project planning.

FGM could provide the work as an extension of the facility needs study completed last year. I reached out to FGM and asked that they provide an estimate of the cost to do so.