



Agenda Report

19-342

Agenda Date: 4/1/2019

REPORT TO BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

SUBJECT

Consideration of Draft Report by Project for Public Spaces Regarding Mission Branch Library City Plaza Park Placemaking Pilot Project

BACKGROUND

The City of Santa Clara hired Project for Public Spaces (PPS) in 2017 to introduce “Placemaking” and its principles to Council, staff, stakeholders and the general public with the goal of advancing a strategy for place-centered improvement and activation of key public spaces throughout the city that will help to build a stronger community. PPS conducted two workshops in 2017, including a “Power of 10” workshop on June 10, 2017 that included an optional exercise where participants convened at one of three locations within Santa Clara, including the Mission Branch Library and City Plaza park. As an outcome of this exercise, the Mission Branch Library and City Plaza park site was recommended by PPS as the site for a follow-up placemaking workshop.

On October 19 and 20, 2018, PPS conducted a two-day site visit to Santa Clara to facilitate a Stakeholder Meeting and Community Workshop, using an approach called “Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper” (LQC). The LQC approach is based on taking incremental steps, using low-cost experiments, and tapping into local people, assets, ideas and places. The meeting and workshop focused on establishing an initial placemaking vision for the Mission Branch Library and City Plaza Park. Several of the Board of Library Trustees participated in both the initial Power of 10 workshop and the most recent LQC workshop. PPS prepared an initial Draft Report on the LQC workshop for feedback.

DISCUSSION

The Board will review and provide feedback on the Draft Report developed by PPS for a Place Making Pilot Project at Mission Branch Library and City Plaza Park. The report summarizes ideas for new programming using the park and the Library. Programming categories included: food, group exercise, performance, education, exhibits, and special events. The Draft Report also presents possible park amenities and physical improvements to enhance community use of the park and Library space.

With a focus on the LQC strategy, PPS states that the local team should review the report recommendations and think strategically about which programs and amenities are the best fit for a “first phase of a pilot project”. Board and community feedback on the Draft Report will be provided through the City Community Development Department to PPS. The Final Report will incorporate comments from Library, Parks & Recreation, community and City staff as needed prior to Council review.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15301 "Existing Facilities", 15302 "replacement or reconstruction", and 15303 "new construction or conversion of small structures" as the activity consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting or minor alteration of existing public facilities or topographical features involving negligible expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agencies determination.

FISCAL IMPACT

The costs for the LQC ideas and more permanent park facility enhancements in the Draft Report have not been estimated at this time. LQC program ideas in the report that include consumable and shorter term materials, supplies and services would be included in the City's Departmental Operating Budget(s). At this juncture there is no fiscal impact.

COORDINATION

This report has been coordinated with the Community Development Department and the Parks and Recreation Department.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Board agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City's website and in the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (408) 615-2220, e-mail clerk@santaclaraca.gov <<mailto:clerk@santaclaraca.gov>> or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library

RECOMMENDATION

There is no staff recommendation for this issue.

Approved by: Hilary Keith, City Librarian

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Report by Project for Public Spaces - Mission Branch Library City Plaza Park Place Making Pilot Project