

From: [Ruth Stiles](#)
To: [Donna Meyers](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Sandy Brown](#)
Subject: A vibrant downtown
Date: Friday, June 21, 2019 1:19:40 PM

Dear Councilmembers,

Yesterday I planned to go downtown to make a purchase. While I was there I thought I might get an amazing ice cream at Penny Ice Creamery. Maybe I'd visit Bookshop Santa Cruz. Then I remembered parking..... I decided to make my purchase elsewhere, yet again.

We live busy lives, and the time to hunt for parking and distance to our destination leads many of us to take our business elsewhere. Downtown businesses lose income, and suburban sprawl is stimulated.

I urge you to protect our downtown and provide adequate parking. This will allow busy professionals to spend their money downtown and reduce sprawl. Reducing climate impacts is a worthy goal, but limiting parking won't support that goal, it will backfire.

Please support a library/parking structure with possible housing. Our community deserves a vibrant downtown.

Ruth Stiles

Ruth Stiles
Horticultural Consultant
Board Certified Master Arborist WE-6613B
ISA Qualified Tree Risk Assessor
831.479.7960

From: [Daniel Spelce](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Donna Meyers](#)
Cc: [Susan Nemitz](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); [Drew Glover](#); [Chris Krohn](#); [Cynthia Mathews](#); [Martine Watkins](#)
Subject: Consensus enthusiasm for the library; aversion to a parking garage
Date: Friday, June 21, 2019 4:00:46 PM

Dear Vice Mayor Cummings, and Council Members Brown and Meyers,

Thank you for creating the Downtown Library Council Subcommittee to examine prospects for a future flagship downtown Santa Cruz branch of the Santa Cruz Public Library (SCPL) system (<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-council-subcommittees/downtown-library-3994>).

True Mission: Library Use Features

The true mission of the earlier Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC) that preceded you recommended library use features a future downtown branch might embody. For this task, the DLAC members were well-qualified and worked commendably, presenting the Council with a list of features for a future downtown library branch that largely reflects community sensibilities.

Architects: Noll & Tam

The Noll & Tam architectural firm (<https://www.nollandtam.com/>) strikes me as an outstanding selection to work with the city to design a renovated or new downtown branch library. The Noll & Tam group brings superb skills, background, and determination to serve public interest around community libraries. The initial concepts the firm presented to the DLAC and attending members of the public continue to appeal to me strongly: a dramatically renovated 224 Church Street branch, with the main entrance reconfigured to face City Hall, closing off the Center Street segment between Church and Union streets, extending the City Hall public square.

Cost

The \$23 million initial allocation for renovating the Downtown Branch from Measure S was not based on a budget to meet identified needs. Drafters and implementers of the measure arrived at the amount based on polling to estimate how much voters were willing to pass and jurisdictional or constituency negotiations. Much maintenance and repair of the branch went deferred to such a degree and use behaviors evolved substantially over time such that Measure S now seems to provide a portion of the cost for branch renovations or renewal.

The questions before the City Council and the broader community really settle on what sort of library the community wants, how much will it cost, and how will it be paid for. These three considerations interact with one another, not necessarily posing a linear sequence of steps.

Given that many in Santa Cruz want union labor with associated benefits and conditions and ecological design features, along with the indirect pressures on prices for material and labor wrought by climate-disruption-related north bay fires of recent years, and the current building boom underway, the \$1,000 per square foot construction cost seems plausible. Committee members and the City Council will want to diligently verify the elements that make their way into any basket of construction goods and services.

Family History Moreso than Genealogy

One aspect of the DLAC effort that encountered blurring concerns family history resource in a

future downtown branch. Presently, the Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County (GSSCC) provides an 8,000-volume genealogy book collection in the existing Downtown Branch, staffed with volunteers to assist members of the public researching family histories. The Society also draws the public to local libraries via well-attended speaker presentations and workshops. The Society and the SCPL also collaborate to provide related online services.

In recent years, the GSSCC realized its own true mission serves a broad and deep community interest in family history. The term “genealogy” narrowly focuses on ancestral relations, a topic of cool, limited interest for most people. “Ancestors,” technically, constitute the birth, marriage, and death “vital statistics” of generations of pairs of parents from whom any of us descends, and excludes cousins and the context of family experience. Family history encompasses cousins, other varieties of relations, context, and experience itself, interests which people generally find compelling.

After serving six years as GSSCC vice president, I recently decided to step away from the board of directors to free time for other family history-related activities, some involving the Society. I feel very confident that the Society board works with renewed, dedicated energy to serve broadening enthusiasm for family history throughout the city and county, incorporating the dynamism of unfolding technologies. As evidenced by family history-public library partnerships across the United States, the continued GSSCC-SCPL partnership at the Downtown Branch, and any future branch iterations, serves the community interest well.

Parking Garage: Blindspotting Climate Disruption

Much of the opposition to the city staff proposal wedding the library to a parking garage anchoring a “multi-use structure” lies in the parking garage. Many residents feel deep concern about the increasingly profound consequences of rapidly and dramatically developing climate disruption. Burning fossil fuels generates the contaminants accumulating in the atmosphere, which traps heat from activity on the planetary surface that otherwise dissipates into space. The largest contributor to burning fossil fuels is transportation, chiefly the gas-burning automobile. Since automobile and oil industries emerged as dominant economic sectors, the United States predominantly invested in automobile infrastructure. A growing body politic wants to move quickly away from investing in automobile infrastructure.

City decision-makers and public servants need to stop blindspotting the climate disruption role a parking garage plays when deliberating on library and transportation futures. Last month the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) broke the story that carbon dioxide (CO₂) particulates have reached 415 parts per million parts of atmosphere (ppm). Three years ago this rate reached 411 ppm. At the beginning of the industrial revolution, about 370 years ago, the rate of atmospheric CO₂ floated around 250 ppm. The consensus of climate scientists hovers around 350 ppm as a ceiling for healthy life on planet Earth. Conditions for life are deteriorating, not improving. We are out of wiggle room.

Appreciating the concept of opportunity cost, investing in a five- or six-story parking garage represents a choice from among many prospective alternative investment opportunities. A large part of the local public want to invest limited available resources in carbon-neutral or negative transportation strategies, in light of the roiling emergency imposed by human behavior-induced climate disruption.

The DLAC was ill-prepared for and inappropriately charged with making a recommendation wedding the downtown library branch to the parking structure regrettably pursued by some

city staff.

Transportation Policy

The present building boom underway in the city and county (and beyond), unfolds without the benefit of a wise transportation policy. To continue issuing building permits that urbanize the density of downtown Santa Cruz and outlying areas without considering the transportation implications of substantially increasing densities begs complicating complex messes. The large parking garage proposed for the Cedar-Lincoln-Cathcart parcel supports an obsolescing technology and fails to improve the conditions generating severe climate disruption in the city and county of Santa Cruz.

The Cedar-Lincoln-Cathcart Parkinglot

Aware that the Cedar-Lincoln-Cathcart area embodies a largest last public space, the City Council, in its role as stewards of the public interest, should invite members of the community to express desires for that space in a series of multi-formatted public hearings.

Books

Honoring a love of libraries and books, I close offering two reads I recommend to each of you:

The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming, by David Wallace-Wells, published this year by Tim Duggan Books.

The Memory We Could Be: Overcoming Fear to Create Our Ecological Future, by Daniel MacMillen Voskoboynik released last year by New Society Publishers.

I purchased both books at one of the local independent bookstores in town.

With sincere gratitude for your consideration,
Daniel Spelce
Family Historian
Retired High School Social Studies Teacher

From: [Barbara Lawrence](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown library project meetings
Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 2:24:19 PM

Hi Amanda,

I am a teacher librarian at Gault Elementary and I would be very interested in being a part of any meeting and discussion about library needs and the future of the Downtown Library. Unfortunately, I cannot make the meeting tomorrow, but I would like to participate in future meetings. Could you let me know if there are more scheduled? Additionally, if there are other ways you need input, please let me know.

Thanks,

Barbara Lawrence

From: [Carol Maynard](#)
To: [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Library
Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 2:06:19 PM

To City of Santa Cruz Library Subcommittee,

I am writing to voice my opinion on the new downtown library. I hope the city will decide against housing the library on the ground floor, or in any part, of a parking garage. This idea was not what we voted for, and many in the city feel very strongly that this is not the best plan moving forward.

I am hoping the current site can be remodeled or another suitable, centrally located, site found for the updated library, one with plenty of light and easily accessible and visible to all.

I am also hopeful that the subcommittee and the city council will take this opinion, and the opinion of the community, into consideration as you make the final decisions.

Thank you,

Carol Maynard
508 Poplar Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

carolmaynard111@gmail.com

From: [Diane Putnam](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Fwd: Library project
Date: Thursday, June 20, 2019 9:10:12 AM

FYI: email sent this morning to Vice Mayor Cummings. Meant to cc you.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Diane Putnam <d.k.putnam@icloud.com>
Subject: Library project
Date: June 20, 2019 at 9:08:33 AM PDT
To: jcumings@cityofsantacruz.com

Dear Vice Mayor Cummings,

How can it be that a project that underwent months of research, visits to mixed-use libraries, and conversations with the public is now scuttled to October? Oh yeah, new council members, who have obviously not engaged with ANY of that research, decided to override the council's vote and throw the project to the winds. I'm sure that you realize that with every month, every week that goes by, costs go up. Meanwhile, Felton has built their branch, Capitola is under way, and Branciforte is moving forward. But Santa Cruz politicians with your own agendas have decided that the advisory group who conducted extensive, thoughtful research and provided several options don't know what they're talking about. Shame on you. Read their work. Move on this.

Our community deserves a safe and modern library—stop delaying for politics, which will only result in no project at all. As a mother of two kids in SCCS and faculty member at Cabrillo, I'm absolutely livid at the disrespect this subcommittee is showing to students of all ages in our community, who need access to study rooms and places where they can do their work when they don't have a home (or space enough to work at home in peace). I attended community meetings, read all of the proposals, and was happy to be finally moving forward on the most long-term sustainable option. At this point, I doubt that anything will be done, and I regret with every fibre of my being that I voted for you. What happened to your promise to work on "increasing community stability and safety"? You do realize that the current downtown library branch is both unstable and unsafe, right? So sorry I voted for you—it won't happen again unless you get informed and get going on this ASAP.

Sincerely,
Diane Putnam

From: walton@cruzio.com
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Cc: [Jane Walton](#)
Subject: Library Comments
Date: Friday, June 21, 2019 7:33:06 AM

(Two of the four addresses given are invalid per my computer--maybe you don't really WANT public comments!)

Greetings, Folks--

I am a frequent and enthusiastic user of both Downtown and Garfield Park libraries for nonfiction BOOKS. I have recently read two books recommended by an out-of-town friend via requests and inter-library loan: Exceptional service indeed!

1. I HATE the parking garage/library concept, no matter what Watsonville has done. It demeans the the library. An ocean/city-view restaurant on top of the parking tower is a much more appropriate use and could produce actual income for the City.

Keep the current library where it is as an important element of the Civic Center--City government buildings, Civic Auditorium, and City Library. Build another story on the library, make streets one-lane and one-way--whatever it takes. CabMuFest closes off the street annually and it's not the end of the world.

2. I have been told at Garfield branch that children's books no longer have due-dates or fines for late return. This is terrible policy. The whole point of the library is sharing books-- you read them, return them on a date certain or face consequences. Other readers can then withdraw them to enjoy as your did. No due date will result in lost books, unneeded expenses for replacement, and growing lack of responsibility on the part of young children and their supervising parents. The lending library was one of Benjamin Franklin's innovations: "no due date" will have him spinning in his grave.

Jane Walton,
Library-Dependent Person

From: [Louisa Capp](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Library
Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 8:10:55 AM

As longtime residents of the city, we urge the committee to reject the plan to put the library in the basement of a parking structure. The location is in a floodplain and this would be unwise. If the committee is married to the idea of having a parking garage, please put the library on the top floor of the parking garage. Please reference the city of Juneau Alaska is public library, which is an excellent use of space for the library on top of their downtown parking garage.

Best regards, Christopher, Louisa, and Jack Capp

741 Prospect Heights
Santa Cruz, CA 95065
lcapp@scusd.net

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rick Longinotti](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: meet with subcommittee
Date: Thursday, June 20, 2019 2:17:40 PM

Hi Amanda,

Could you let me know a time when representatives from Campaign for Sustainable Transportation might meet with the Council subcommittee on the library? I am available on June 24th in the afternoon.

Meanwhile here are some resources that may be useful for the Subcommittee members:

The video for the consultants from three agencies speaking on Downtown parking to the Planning Commission and Downtown Commission in October 2015:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TsEXwWceB1weUO03sfKRCMumwop_PkV5/view

An important excerpt from consultant Janis Rhodes at that meeting, "When you talk about that \$30,000 fee [per parking space] ...No agency will make enough on user fees to pay for that space. All three of us professionals and all my peers in the industry [have become] very conservative. Maximizing existing inventories before we step out into that arena of financing new resources. Because it has become extremely difficult and very expensive to do all of that."

The video for Patrick Siegman's presentation at the Council on March 19th is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dCUUjn7Ehg&feature=youtu.be>

Thanks,
Rick

From: [flo queen-stover](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: please forward to library sub-committee
Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 11:32:06 AM

hope you can get this to the right folks working on this- thank you

Dear Library Planning Committee-

I use the downtown library on a regular basis- the facility is fine for me- I always find parking and it is easy to access and provides me with everything I need. I take advantage of the online services so I can pick-up my books quickly when they are available. I am a Santa Cruz resident and think there is better use of our city funding than building a new library with a parking garage. Please just maintain our current downtown library facility.

Thank You,

Flo Queen-Stover
113 Lance Court