

From: [Judi](#)
To: [Justin Cummings](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Amanda Rotella](#); [Donna Meyers](#)
Subject: A few thoughts after your Aug. 7 meeting
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 7:02:57 PM

Hello Sub-Committee Members, I look forward to hearing what was discussed at your meeting today regarding financing possibilities for the downtown library (if Measure S is not deemed sufficient). For the sake of transparency, I would have preferred knowing which parties addressed you, but perhaps that will be revealed in time.

It occurs to me that it is not a matter of "all or nothing" or "now or never" with regards to what our library building can incorporate, as long as the space affords some flexibility. As needs change over the years (and we cannot predict them), just because it was not financially possible to include a particular feature in 2019/2020, does not mean such features can never be included. There have been a number of recent generous donations to other libraries in the system, and if there was a focused campaign to raise money for the downtown library, we might be surprised at the generosity of appreciative library users.

Thank you.

Judi Grunstra, Santa Cruz resident and librarian

From: [Jean Brocklebank](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Amazing renovation
Date: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 11:43:00 AM

Amanda ~

Please forward this email to the Library Subcommittee.

Thank you,
Jean

Dear Library Subcommittee ~

We keep hearing how the downtown library is shabby, how it is beyond repair or beyond renovation and revitalization. How there isn't enough Measure S funding available to produce a beautifully renovated library. All of these statements are unsubstantiated, without proof as well as without vision.

I invite you to review what recently happened in Detroit to the Metropolitan Building, a 14-story Neo-Gothic office building built in 1925 had been abandoned for 40 years for \$33 million. ***The before and after pictures will astonish you!!***

The first link gives some background, as well as the astonishing pictures:

<https://detroit.curbed.com/2019/7/24/20708824/metropolitan-building-downtown-detroit-before-and-after>

The second link will provide even more astonishing before and after pictures:

https://alannastlaurent.com/metropolitan-building-see-the-before-afters/?fbclid=IwAR2vuXmQbyiCT_JF2QZUa3CkKh_2sUj7yvyzMmPghxE9QXwKIKk6sJOR5sAQ

This clearly shows what is possible for our 50 year old library building, which is so much smaller and in such better condition than Detroit's truly dilapidated Metropolitan Building.

As the City Council's Library Subcommittee work proceeds, it and the public must be made aware that it is only a lack of vision and will that precludes creating a beautifully renovated library, without stripping the existing building to its skeleton beforehand and spending \$38 million.

Sincerely,
Jean Brocklebank
Judi Grunstra
Michael Lewis
on behalf of [Don't Bury The Library](#)

From: [Judi](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Amazing renovation
Date: Friday, July 26, 2019 2:38:15 PM

Hello again, This is inspiring - where there's a will there's a way. You can "slide" the line to see before and after. \$33 million to renovate this 14-story hotel. Our downtown library is not beautiful like this, but it could be much improved! Please share with sub-committee, for inspiration. Thanks. Judi

https://alannastlaurent.com/metropolitan-building-see-the-before-afters/?fbclid=IwAR2vuXmQbyiCT_JF2QZUa3CkKh_2sUj7yvzMmPghxE9QXwKlKk6sJOR5sAQ

	<h3 data-bbox="743 684 1312 779">Detroit's Metropolitan Building - See the Before / Afters</h3> <p data-bbox="743 810 1312 940">See before/after images of the Metropolitan Building, now the Elements Hotel + Monarch Club in Detroit. Images by Alanna St. Laurent, Detroit photographer.</p> <p data-bbox="743 968 980 1003">alannastlaurent.com</p>
--	--

From: [Judi](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: [CAUTION: Verify Sender Before Opening!] My Vision for Downtown
Date: Monday, August 26, 2019 4:31:16 PM
Attachments: [Vision for Downtown Subcommittee meeting 9 17 19.docx](#)

Dear Amanda, In advance of the sub-committee meeting, I have jotted down my thoughts to share with them. Please distribute to them.

Thanks!

Judi G.

My Vision for Downtown submitted by Judi Grunstra, 8/25/19, to library sub-committee

Keep the Downtown Library where it is. There was never any demand from the public to re-locate the library. It is part of our Civic Center. The notion of it being used more if it were closer to Pacific Avenue is without substance. Coupling it with a garage will not make it “safer”. Renovate or rebuild new, but leave it where it is.

The San Lorenzo River as an asset – consider how to balance increased development along the river and enhanced riverfront activities (cafes, small outdoor stage, etc.) with the natural habitat. Look to the ways other cities have developed their riverfronts but respect any unique qualities our river may have.

Let’s have some distinctive architecture!! Avoid “safe” styles seen everywhere. Add greenery elements in the architecture itself. (many examples) People travel to see interesting architecture.

Renovate Civic Auditorium – could that include moving the Fire Station to the periphery of town? Consider better management so the Civic can bring in larger acts, have it used more.

Re-pave or thoroughly **clean downtown streets** that are stained and disgusting.

Commence a new comprehensive planning effort using outside consultants like Projects for Public Spaces. Initiate a “Proto-typing festival” that involves as many residents as possible. While that process is underway, make it easy for groups to hold “pop up” events in Lot 4 or other city spaces without a lengthy or expensive permit process. Portland, Oregon has done this.

Explore how the city can make Lot 4 a successful **Town Commons**. Along with a permanent home for the farmer’s market and antiques faire, could we include a Food Hall (like many cities have) perhaps with incubator spaces for food entrepreneurs? (*I have provided Bonnie Lipscomb with a list of food halls in the Bay Area and beyond*)

Parking:

Downtown already has 4 parking structures. Two of them are on Front St yet the CVS/Trader Joe’s parking lot is almost always full. Approach owner George Ow about a mixed use project there – Trader Joe’s on ground floor, housing and/or parking above.

Any additional parking should be on periphery of downtown. (a city-county structure on Ocean St? Gateway Plaza?) A significant amount of space in garages must be protected bike parking.

Could the city get out of the parking business? Let private companies build and manage parking,

Does the city need to re-evaluate owned and rented real estate in the downtown currently used for city department offices? Are the city offices currently scattered in assorted older buildings downtown the best use of downtown real estate? Is there a certain charm used as offices? Will there be ongoing maintenance issues in these older buildings? Could those properties be sold? The offices relocated (additional floors above a new library at existing site?) Mr. Bernal has spoken about “consolidation” of parking; why not of office space as well?

Better connection between beach and town. Make use of tracks on Chestnut St. to shuttle people from one end of town to another and even to beach.

From: [Judi](#)
To: [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Library Parking Meeting Aug 20
Date: Monday, August 19, 2019 6:41:52 PM

Dear Sub-committee members: An idea I have had for many years and that you might consider is a cooperative venture between the City and the County to increase the parking supply by building a parking structure on the surface lot in front of the (ugly) county building. Parking is in short supply for county purposes such as for those serving on Jury Duty, and likely for county employees. Increasing the supply there would allow people to walk just a short distance to downtown Santa Cruz. It would be a place for tourists coming into town from "over the hill" onto Ocean St. to park and get to the beach via frequent shuttles.

Maybe it's a fantasy that the city and county could cooperate on anything, but IF more parking is needed, let's not build a garage smack in the middle of downtown, but rather on the periphery.

Thank you.

Judi Grunstra

From: [John Hall](#)
To: [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Cc: [Jessica Parr](#)
Subject: Downtown Library subcommittee - person with expertise on farmers" markets
Date: Friday, August 9, 2019 1:32:10 PM

Dear Donna, Justin, and Sandy,

Again, thank you for taking the time for the presentation that Karen Simmons and I made on behalf of Downtown Commons Advocates. We continue to hope that a first-class solution for the library will be found that will accommodate developing parking lot #4 as a town commons with a permanent farmers' market.

One of the key issues for the overall solution concerns getting an appropriate facility for the Farmers' Market.

Jessy Parr, director of the CCOF Foundation [<https://www.ccof.org/ccof>], which is based in Santa Cruz, has considerable expertise on this issue. She is particularly knowledgeable about possible external support for farmers' market infrastructure grants.

Jessy has just told me that she would be willing to talk with the Subcommittee. I've cc'd her here, and if you have the opportunity, I think having her give a short presentation might provide very useful information.

With best wishes for your work,

John

[John R. Hall](#)
Research Professor of Sociology
University of California - Santa Cruz and Davis
<https://sociology.ucsc.edu/about/directory-emeriti.php?uid=jhall5>
<https://ucdavis.academia.edu/JohnHall>

From: [Sally Wittman](#)
To: [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Downtown Library
Date: Thursday, August 15, 2019 10:00:57 PM

Dear Committee,

I'll try to be brief, as we are all tired of rhetoric. I've had a long and fruitful relationship with the downtown library, since I live 5 blocks up the hill, and I took my three children there several times/week until they were teens (they're now in their 30s and 40s). I still go to the library 3X/week myself. The library definitely needs repairs, but the dumping of basically sound architecture is not a goal we should be aiming for in today's world. I say that as someone who at one time suggested that the library should aim for something like the Vancouver, WA library, which is well-designed and famous. It, however, was mostly funded by an individual. I know because the woman in charge of that library's finances is an old college buddy of mine. It was not a renovation, because it was a new library in a fast-growing and rather well-to-do community. My friend also has stated that the people of Vancouver are very savvy and would never accept a bond measure treated with such a "lack of clarity." (I would have called it bait and switch.) A parking garage is certainly not what the people of Santa Cruz thought they were voting for. It is really important for the city council to be honest with the people, because once you lose credibility it is hard to regain it. You are in charge of city staff, not the other way around.

I also feel especially qualified to speak out on the topic of the library because in addition to being a frequent library user, I have design experience and have worked in an architect's office, and also because I am an author of 9 children's books, I've worked in some of the finest libraries in the country, including several years living across the street from the University of Chicago's famous Regenstein Library, ranking in size only after the Library of Congress and the Harvard Library. I have also been a member of the Friends of the Library, though I dropped my membership due to the slightly hysterical ramblings of the head of the Friends, who continues to speak for the "Friends," when she means her friends (I was never asked my opinions, nor were many others. The alarmist and irrelevant talk of rats, asbestos exposure, (which was removed after the earthquake), etc. are just silly. Every building on the westside has rats, due to ongoing roadwork and the proximity to the Pogonip and other factors.

I don't know what spurs people on to build more and bigger and claim "state of the art" on the taxpayer's dollar. We could do a lot of improvement and reconsideration of existing space without venturing into the world of hyperbole. I live in an almost 100 year-old house: I'm on my third heating system, and I have ongoing rat problems, as do all my neighbors. Welcome to the Westside. If we really want to decrease these problems we need to start creating a climate of city hygiene and education. It is not an aging-library program, it is a citywide problem.

A library does not belong in a parking garage, even if some have sadly ended up there, but mostly because we have a space for our library, and it even has an earthquake-sound foundation right where it is! In addition to that, we don't need a parking garage at all, for there is not a parking problem, there is a lack of imagination problem. Envision people-movers in the form of more and better shuttles. Somebody needs to go to Curitiba, the Brazilian model city and see their shuttles and trams. Actually, somebody did: I did! They are see-through clear tubes that pull up silently, and the doors open and close silently. Amazing! They hold a lot of people, too.

If you agree to build an ugly concrete parking garage, it will be an irreversible disaster. This is just the worst idea I've heard in a long time. It is so backward and unenvironmentally sound that even the paper it was written on stinks. Do you know that I have never once found it necessary to park in a pay-lot downtown? Not once. Nor have my children when they come to visit with their kids. That's because there isn't a parking problem. Please do the right thing for the environment here. We are so worried

about plastic bags & straws, and then you consider this amazingly out of place
6-story monstrosity?

So I vote for what we voted for, a renovated library where it is, and nothing more. We need a clean world in which
we can breathe and read and see the sky.

Thank you,
Sally Wittman

From: [Judi](#)
To: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Memphis renovated library
Date: Saturday, August 24, 2019 12:48:29 PM

Hi Amanda, Another library project to share. The old facade pictured is SO UGLY. The riverfront setting makes me wonder if there could be a swap between George Ow, who owns the Trader Joe property on the river, with the city, so we could have a new library on the riverfront. Just one idea that would take time to explore and negotiate. Time that was wasted by the faulty DLAC process, unfortunately.

I don't think we need to offer recording studios, dance studio space, etc. - some of these projects stray too far from what I consider the mission of libraries. Judi

<https://medium.com/reimagining-the-civic-commons/the-next-generation-of-public-libraries-39f6c0d1c02b>

From: Amanda Rotella
To: [Amanda Rotella](mailto:Amanda.Rotella)
Subject: RE: Library Letter
Date: Thursday, September 19, 2019 4:50:00 PM

From: SYLVIA A LEE [mailto:sylvialee2@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2019 10:48 AM
To: Donna Meyers <dmeyers@cityofsantacruz.com>; Justin Cummings <jcumings@cityofsantacruz.com>; Sandy Brown <sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com>; Amanda Rotella <ARotella@cityofsantacruz.com>; gomernick@santacruzsentinel.com
Subject: Fw: Library Letter

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Sylvia Lee <sylvialee2@sbcglobal.net>
To: "robert.singleton@sccbusinesscouncil.com" <robert.singleton@sccbusinesscouncil.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019, 4:32:43 PM PDT
Subject: Fwd: Library Letter

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: SYLVIA A LEE <sylvialee2@sbcglobal.net>
Date: July 17, 2019 at 12:14:52 PM PDT
To: "robert.singleton@sccbusiness.com" <robert.singleton@sccbusiness.com>
Subject: Library Letter

July 17, 2019

I've been a member of the Friends of the Scotts Valley Library for 8 years and President for the past 4 years. I've lived in Santa Cruz County for over 30 years. I am well aware of the situation with the downtown Library branch. It needs to be replaced with a new, modern mixed use building, not a remodel. To close that Library for a remodel would create serious problems for the remaining 9 Branches as well as organizations like the Genealogy Club that meets and keeps all of its materials currently at Central. Another building would need to be found to store all the books and equipment currently at Central. For those of us who go online to reserve books to read and can pick them up and drop them off at our local branch are concerned how that service would continue if Central is closed for a remodel and books are stored off site. That effects hundreds if not thousands of residents daily. We need to build a mixed use facility that will serve the City of Santa Cruz and all of us in the future. The citizens voted to support our Library system. Felton, Capitola and all Branches have benefited from Yes on S. The City of Santa Cruz should follow this example and build a new Library that will continue to serve the needs and support for the whole county Library System.

Sincerely,
Sylvia Lee. Pres. FSVPL

From: [John Hall](#)
To: [Donna Meyers](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Justin Cummings](#)
Cc: [Amanda Rotella](#)
Subject: Subcommittee presentation/discussion suggestion
Date: Friday, August 30, 2019 8:43:57 AM

Dear Donna, Justin, and Sandy,

I am well aware that the time for your subcommittee to complete its work is short. As you reach the point of pursuing an overview and a final proposal, I want to suggest one individual whose input might be especially helpful.

You already have seen a presentation on parking by my colleague UCSC Professor Adam Millard-Ball at a City Council meeting some months ago. I happened to talk with Adam yesterday. His assessment of parking issues is quite different from that presented by city staff recently, and it might be worth revisiting.

In addition, Adam has a much broader take on urban planning matters, including traffic circulation, street uses, and overall configuration of downtown spaces. Without anticipating the details of what he might say, I think he can bring a fresh analysis to the broad issues that circumscribe planning for the Library. His perspective is not that of a stakeholder but of someone professionally trained in the analysis of urban issues. It might offer context for the perspectives of stakeholders.

If you are interested, he told me he'd be willing to have a conversation with you or make a presentation. He may be reached at adammb@ucsc.edu .

With best wishes for your work,

John

[John R. Hall](#)
Research Professor of Sociology
University of California - Santa Cruz and Davis
<https://sociology.ucsc.edu/about/directory-emeriti.php?uid=jhall5>
<https://ucdavis.academia.edu/JohnHall>