



APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY
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**TO: Members of the Appleton Public Library Board of Trustees
Members of the City of Appleton Common Council**
**FROM: Dean Gazza, Director of Parks Recreation and Facilities Management
Colleen Rortvedt, Library Director**
DATE: March 9, 2022
RE: March Library Building Project Update

City staff continue to work with architects Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM) on the library project. This is a time of intensive, highly detailed work as we plan both the newly renovated library as well as the temporary library. The following progress has been made in the past month:

Design Update

SOM continues to work with staff on finalizing the design. Technology, finishes, millwork, furniture and wayfinding have been the focus of the past month. SOM is having numerous virtual and in-person meetings with staff, members of the SOM team and consultants that have expertise in each of these areas to work through the details of how each space will function so we can incorporate the appropriate capabilities into each area.

SOM will present updated designs at an additional meeting of the APL Board of Trustees Friday, March 25 at noon.

Timeline

We remain on track with the following schedule:

- April 13 – Current library closed
- May 23 – Open temporary library
- May – Bidding for construction
- June – Bids Due and Issue contract for construction
- July – Construction begins

Communication

Our current external communications strategy includes sharing information about the upcoming move to the temporary library on our various communication channels. This includes sharing information on closed dates, available services during our closure and services available at the temporary location.

As part of our communications strategy about our upcoming move to a temporary space, we are highlighting memories of the current building and what people are excited about for the new facility. We have created a social media campaign with Friends of Appleton Public Library to share stories from the library and Friends board, staff and the public. Kara and Tina will be meeting to schedule content on our social media outlets over the next few weeks. If you are interested in participating, please email Tina.

Work on the sign package for the temporary space continues. We are working with Fox Valley Communications to provide multilingual signage. An installation date is TBD. The sign vendor is approximately 4-5 weeks out on fabrication and install, so we are still ahead of schedule.

Additional Site Assessment Updates

Last month's geothermal test was successful and geothermal is being incorporated into the project providing a significant enhancement to the library and city's sustainability goals.

Parking

The following changes to the parking ordinances and policies were approved to ensure the library lot and yellow ramp parking prioritize convenient access to the library, neighboring businesses, and organizations for visitors.

1. Ordinance modification that overnight parking in the Yellow Ramp is permitted only on levels 6 and 7, effective January 1, 2023.
2. Policy modification that city employees park in the 12-hour on-street meters or in the Yellow Ramp, not the library parking lot.

Interim library needs

Boldt has started the build-out at the Kensington location in preparation for our move to that location in mid-April. Exterior book drops have been ordered for both locations. We are working with vendors on various aspects of the move, including moving our security cameras, moving the network itself, and a variety of other specialized equipment such as the ATM.

The deadline for proposals in response to the moving company RFP was updated to Monday, March 14th. We have conducted tours for several interested parties and answered questions in relation to the scope of the project. Library staff have continued to work on identifying items to be used in the temporary location or placed in storage.

College Avenue North Neighborhood Planning

The College North Neighborhood Plan Open House is scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2022 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the City Center Board Room, City Center Plaza, 10 E. College Avenue, 1st Floor toward East End. Walk throughs will take about 15 minutes and visitors can stop by anytime during the 3-hour window. There will be boards available showing concepts for site development and staff will be available to listen and discuss.

Funding

The State's Neighborhood Investment Fund grants have been announced and the City of Appleton was not awarded funding for this project.

Fortunately, the results of the Friends of Appleton Public Library feasibility study have been completed. After interviews with potential local donors, this study recommends that Friends should embark on a \$12 million capital campaign. The capital campaign consultant will present more information at the regularly scheduled March meeting.

The Appleton Public Library is pleased to announce that we joined the SolarNOW program offered by WE Energies to provide a solar array that will be located on the roof of the library. More details about total output will be determined during design. The library is committed to reducing its carbon footprint.

Stay up to date on the library building project or sign up for email updates by visiting apl.org/building.