



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: November 2, 2022
RE: November Library Building Project Update

When the City of Appleton and the Appleton Public Library set out on the redesign and renovation of the library building, we identified seven principles to guide our work. Among the principles were to “steward existing community investments” and to “deliver a cost-effective plan, maximizing taxpayer value while meeting community needs.”

The September bid opening for the construction of a redesigned library revealed costs escalated beyond the project team’s most conservative estimations. The project team recommended the City of Appleton Common Council reject all bids, allowing the team to rework the design and scope to re-bid the project. The Common Council rejected all bids at their October 5 meeting.

Project Progress

City staff, The Boldt Company (Boldt) and Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM) are reviewing the current design to reduce and/or modify the scope of the project.

Meetings have been held with trade contractors to obtain recommendations and information about the current market and the effects on cost, lead times and potential alternatives. Meetings to date include timber structures and concrete; metal panels and glazing; electrical; HVAC; doors, frames and hardware; and carpentry. Additional meetings are being scheduled.

Potential areas of change to the project include:

- Reduced excavation
- Potential use of steel versus wood structure
- Lighting upgrades
- HVAC system including Geo-Thermal
- Reallocation of spaces for shared usage
- Landscape adjustments

- Redesign of staircases

Timeline

The current timeline is below. Please remember the schedule may be impacted by many factors including lead time for products, supply chain, weather, etc.

- Fall 2022 – Value Engineering and Redesign Scope Development
- Early 2023 – Project Goes to Bid
- Spring 2023 - Construction Starts
- Opening Day - TBD

Communication

We continue to promote our building project webpage – apl.org/building - as a place for community members to find information related to the project. The webpage includes monthly updates, project FAQs, project spotlights (such as parking, plans and permits, etc.), and an area to provide feedback/questions.

Capital Campaign

Friends continues to work with the Capital Campaign Committee to cultivate private philanthropic support for the library building project and keep potential donors informed of the city's approach to deliver a cost-effective plan.

Plans for the public phase of the campaign will shift to align with the city's updated timeline, bid process and groundbreaking.

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