



**APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
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**TO:** Appleton Public Library Board of Trustees and City of Appleton Common Council

**FROM:** Colleen Rortvedt, Library Director

**DATE:** April 19, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Next steps in the library building process

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This memo serves to update you on where we are with the library building process. Since the City Council vote last spring to not acquire the bluff site the library has been working on evaluating the past process, participating in city-wide related studies, continuing to evaluate best practices in library services and researching new facility models.

#### **October**

- Members of the APL Board of Trustees and APL staff attended [the Future of American Public Libraries Conference](#) at Marquette Law School in Milwaukee and toured the Milwaukee Library East Branch.

#### **December**

- Studied [Rising to the Challenge: Re-envisioning Public Libraries](#) report and evaluated APL150's alignment with this national report by The Aspen Institute.

#### **January**

- Updated long range plan [APL150](#)
- Department of Public Works Mobility Study stakeholders group began work

#### **February**

- Downtown Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee began work

#### **April**

- Public Meetings on Comprehensive Plan
- Public Meetings on Mobility Study options

Throughout the past months we have continued to get questions and feedback about the future of the library. During this time we have identified some common themes in the feedback. First, through letters to the Post-Crescent, the Mayor and Board President Scheuerman the public has identified possibly synergies between the future of the library and the future of the Thompson Community Center services. We have been responsive to that feedback and I am serving on the long term solution taskforce.

Another factor that has influenced feedback has been the opening of the new Kaukauna Public Library in the Grand Kakalin development. This mixed-use development provides an example of a library as an anchor in a

historic development that will ultimately house the library, office and retail. Libraries throughout the country have been developing mixed use libraries in conjunction with other public spaces, retail, housing and other commercial interests when these public private partnerships can create win-wins for everyone. In Milwaukee we witnessed first-hand how it is working for them. It has been so successful there that they are using this model as a template for updating all their branches.

With these two themes in mind, President Scheuerman has requested that library staff prepare a presentation about libraries in mixed use developments and any other developments that have been impacting library facility design since we developed our 2014 building program. We will present this at the next board meeting or schedule a committee meeting based on consensus at the meeting.