

## **Friends of the Regina Public Library**

### **Presentation to the Regina Public Library Board April 24, 2012**

*My name is Edith Mountjoy. I am speaking to you on behalf of the Friends of the Regina Public Library. Thank you for the opportunity to address you about the proposed redevelopment of Central Library.*

Central Library is one of our City's most valuable assets. It is not only a place of learning, art and culture, but a building of substance and beauty. It has heritage value and is protected within the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District. It is a source of civic pride, accessible to all.

We are very concerned that the plan you are considering could result in the destruction of the Central Library building, along with its neighbour, the Masonic Temple.

It is crucial that the public be informed and consulted regarding this plan. Questions that need to be answered include: What are the space requirements of the library to warrant an expansion? If expansion is needed, is a development of such magnitude necessary and what would be the cost? Have funding options, other than P3, been explored? What options have been considered for an expansion of the current building? What is the timeline for refurbishing Central Branch?

In response to citizen concerns, the Friends held their own public meeting on March 13. Joanne Havelock, the Friends' chair, shared the outcome of that meeting with you at your last Board meeting on March 27. You agreed to provide information on a number of issues the public had raised.

Also at your March 27 meeting we asked to become informed on the status of the P3 application. We are asking you again to provide this information.

In view of considerable concern in the community and in keeping with your public participation policy, we ask that you to hold full and open consultations before proceeding any further with your plan for Central Library.

**Addition to Library Board Presentation**  
**April 24, 2012**  
**Edith Mountjoy**

I would like to comment on a letter we received from Jeff Barber in response to the questions we raised at the last Library Board meeting.

The letter arrived after the deadline for submitting the presentation.

The letter suggests, in part, that it is “too early in the process” to answer some of the questions posed.

We feel it is too late in the process as you are already negotiating the purchase of the Masonic Temple and have applied for P3 funding.

The public needed to be consulted before these steps were taken.