

April 5, 2013

Ms. Joanne Havelock
The Friends of the Regina Public Library (FRPL)
2042 Garnet Street
REGINA SK S4T 2Z6

Dear Ms. Havelock:

Further to your letter of 25 February and questions from your letter to Council on 14 February, your questions are quoted below and followed with responses.

1. What kind of consultation process will the RPL be using [for the Development Plan]? *The consultation process varies depending upon the question at hand. The Development Plan (also called a functional program) is intended to gather the expertise of planning consultants and mix them with the expertise of staff who work in the building to propose possible interrelationships among units in a public service environment. It is not, in and of itself, a plan that is necessarily directly implemented in a building. Its principles would be applied within the context of future planning for the Central Library once a realizable building size and design is ready. The functional program then becomes part of the input process on the broader plan and it is the broader plan that is the topic of consultation.*

In addition to the on-line survey, will there be a single public meeting or a series of meetings? *Yes, once there is a new plan for Central Library, I would expect a series of public meetings or information sessions that can cover where the Library has been in its planning and where the Library is heading.*

How will participants be able to share their views? *In the Board's view, all Reginaans are participants in the public library and can share their views at any time. Consultation around the Central Library will include additional opportunities but input is always welcome.*

2. Could the RPL make print copies of these documents available at each of their branches? *RPL will make print copies of each report available in the Central Library collection. The nature of the system is, of course, that it can be requested by anyone, anywhere, and will be delivered to the branch most convenient for pick-up. If demand warrants it, more copies can be made and added to the system.*

3. Is the Library Board thinking of submitting a new proposal to the P3 Canada Fund? *It is impossible to say at this point.*

Would this be done for the June 30, 2013 deadline? If RPL submits to the P3 Canada fund again, it would be under whatever timeline P3 Canada prescribes and depend upon when RPL is ready to move forward.

4. What processes will be used and what funds have been allocated to do this evaluation [BISAC implementation]? *RPL is a public library leader in evidence-based practice. No extra funds are allocated to this process as internal resources are able to do evaluative work. The evaluation will include online and staff surveys as well as analysis of snapshot data that is currently available. The Library is also acquiring in 2013 a data analysis tool for libraries that will assist in the evaluation of other aspects of the library collection.*
5. [FRPL] would like to have more detail about the other aspects of increased technology expenses. *Self-service technologies, like self-check stations; getting new technologies in the hands of both staff and patrons; and working through data storage and security issues are the focus for technology services spending in 2013. This is in addition, of course, to the regular flow of server, PC, and network replacements. In general, technologies to support patron services is an area of current and future growth that will be visible throughout the library.*
6. How much has been spent on architectural and consultant fees to date and what portion of the work will be applicable to future efforts to upgrade Central Branch? *Over the past four years, the Library has spent \$778,000 on architecture and consulting fees related to Central Library Development. All of this work is applicable to future efforts. The design of a library, and perhaps any major public building, is an iterative process where each piece builds upon the last.*

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7. Some documents from 2011 were recently posted on the RPL website, with the RPL Board indicating that new plans would be available for public consultation hopefully in March of this year and a public survey. What resources are being allocated in the 2013 budget to support a full public consultation process about the plans to upgrade Central Library? *The 2013 budget includes resources to conduct a city-wide survey on future services and Central Library Development. Existing Unit resources are being allocated to produce the online survey and conduct any broader public consultation sessions, should the Central Library plans sufficiently advance to create the opportunity. The city-wide survey is under way now and the online survey will follow immediately thereafter. The RPL Board's review of options for the Central Library is, of course, dependent upon a number of external factors that are outside their control. The next opportunity to discuss options for the Central Library is likely to be late spring rather than early spring.*

The FRPL letters also included a number of statements about FRPL preferences and they are duly noted. At the point where the Central Library's plans are sufficiently developed to engage in a public conversation, there will be an opportunity for the entire community to ask questions and participate in the Central Library project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Barber".

Jeff Barber
Library Director & CEO