

Sedro-Woolley City Council February 24, 2017 Public Library Workshop Report

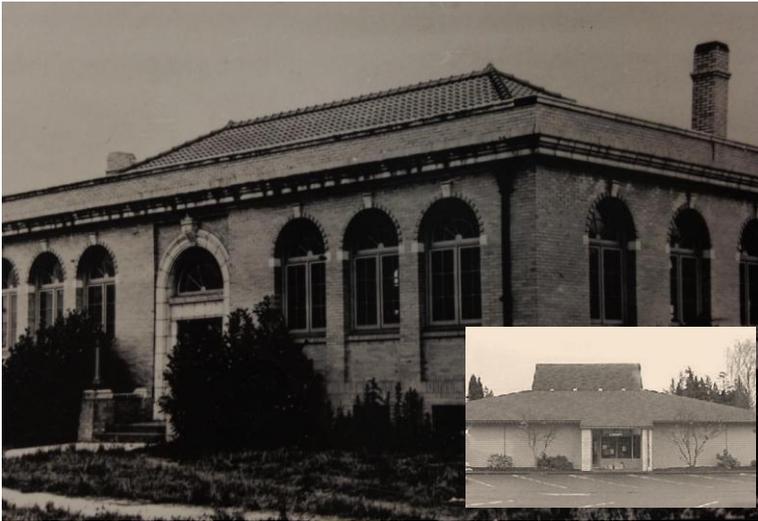
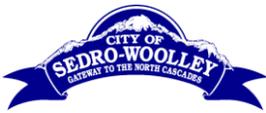


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I. Workshop Methods and Documentation

Sedro-Woolley City Council hosted a special meeting on February 24, 2017 to hear and discuss the proposed **Library Partnership Concept** prepared by the Library Project Negotiating Committee. This was the City Council's first reading of the Negotiating Committee's November 28, 2016 Recommendation.

The public workshop/open house was conducted from 5:00-7:30pm at the City Council Chambers. City Council and participants engaged in a:

- Brief review of the City's involvement in libraries and the current library project negotiations. See Mayor Keith Wagoner's introduction slides 1-3 in the Feb. 24, 2017 presentation;
- Structured time to ask question about and hear staff responses regarding the Library Partnership Concept document and supporting interlocal agreements. See workshop agenda on slide 4;
- Refresher on the purpose for the February 24, 2017 workshop —meeting 1 in the series of 4, and additional public input opportunities. See Eron Berg's public review slide 5; and
- Public comment and input period. Mayor Keith Wagoner, Eron Berg, City Supervisor and Attorney, and Debra Peterson, City Library Director provided responses to participants' questions throughout the workshop. See February 24, 2017 City Council Special Meeting Minutes for documentation of comments, questions and staff responses.

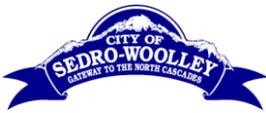
This report documents the content posted on flipcharts by the facilitator during the open public workshop. Input is organized by Library Partnership Concept and supporting Inter-Local Agreements (ILAs) document sections. Clarifying questions are noted in *italics*, followed by verbal comments (comment highlights, not verbatim) and written comments noted in plain text.

Materials provided to participants included: February 24, 2017 Public Library Workshop Agenda; November 28, 2016 Library Partnership Concept; and Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Library Partnership Concept, Updated February 23, 2017.

II. Library Partnership Proposal Key Concepts and General Input

A. Clarifying Questions and Comments on Key Provisions

- *Why does our City not fund a percentage of the Budget to the Library like other cities?*
- *Why is it the people do not know about what is going on with the Library?*
- *Sedro-Woolley is growing. Will the percentage of the funding proportionality going to be revisited?*
- *Why is the building criteria for 26,000 people? They won't all come at the same time.*
- *Why did they wait until after the election to show proposal?*
- Wished the Mayor had asked the City Library staff first before asking the District about improvements.
- District has provision options with better deal in the costs to parties, costs are different to each.
- The promise of an improved City Library was not delivered. District got the resources.



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- Concerned about control as the District Board allows for City residents on their Board of Trustees but does not require it.
- I feel people look to libraries as people who can help with information, but there have been many rumors generated by the librarians at the City Library.
- *Are we duplicating resources and services in our community? Schools have STEM programs and resources, community centers offer classes for cooking, legal classes for working.*
- *The 2010 U.S. Census is not as accurate as we may need.*
- *Will you survey real use of libraries and costs?*
- Sedro-Woolley residents have library access and have had hard time getting access without proper ID. When children go together from same school this can be distressing.

1. Key Provision: Mechanism

2. Key Provision: Authority

- *Who gave the Mayor the right to give the library away? It is a library, right not City.*
- City should coerce District Library to contract with City whether they like it or not.

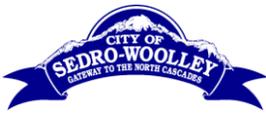
3. Public Process: City and District

- *How long has project been discussed and with who? City Council, with the District, the public?*
- *What is the voting annexation incentive for the City?*
- *Are there architectural plans for the building?*
- Loss of representation; partnership presents more complex, less direct representation.
- I feel like we are missing a large population at these meetings, people who might not be able to come, or do not feel welcome at these meetings, e.g., teens, young families, young children, Latino population. We are hearing over and over from the same people and most of them are related to the staff of the City Library.

III. City-Library District Partnership Inter Local Agreement (ILA)

A. Clarifying Questions and Comments on Key Provisions

- *How do we get same service with a doubled service population? Until the library is built, we'll have crowding? Will this lead to more days open, longer hours?*
- *Will there be a public concept for the library before the Council votes on the Library Partnership Concept agreement?*
- *How many library districts are we talking about, is the Central Skagit Rural District the only one Sedro-Woolley will be working with?*



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1. Key Provision: Pre-design Process

- *Cost share seems to be based on the 2010 U.S. Census, is it adjusted with the new one when it comes out? How will percentages be updated?*
- *What if this is a project that becomes more than 5 million? Should we spend this money now given current situation in the U.S. City has a good library, the District can build better one.*
- *Will a pre-design survey be conducted prior to the building size and location decisions are made?*
- *Do pre-design costs get shared from point of agreement forward or all costs incurred to date?*
- *Will there be new property taxes?*
- *Is bigger better?*
- *It is vital for future of Sedro-Woolley to have a good library. This is a high-value opportunity for improvement without increase in tax costs.*
- *City Library already serves a broad population, may need refurbished or remodeled facility.*
- *The idea that the current library is adequate is wrong, its 50 years old and we need more room and ideas.*

2. Key Provision: City's Special Historical Collection

- *Will the partnership agreement transfer ownership of the collection to the District?*
- *Can the agreement dedicate space and holding of the Sedro-Woolley historical collection?*
- *Think there is a high value for historical books in our community.*

3. Key Provision: City Employees

- *Why does the District run our City Library while the building is being built?*
- *Who is the librarian?*

4. Key Provision: City Collection/District FF&E

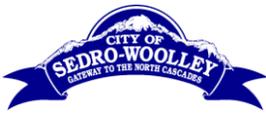
- *Has the City's Historical collection been evaluated by an independent body or party?*
- *Will additional collections include print books?*
- *Add a definite number on purchase of equipment and nail down these numbers so value is agreed to and is enough to cover what is needed, give an additional 5% variance.*
- *6:1 ratio of books now does not get improved due to change in total population and ratio.*
- *Concerned about loss of City-owned collection and giving it to another entity. Will District have same affection for the city-focused, print-only collection?*
- *District Library already has a digital collection focus, so I can see where there are concerns about the print collection.*

5. Key Provision: Pre-Annexation Issues

- *What is the annexation incentive for the City of Sedro-Woolley?*
- *What happens if the agreement falls apart or is dissolved before year 2? How is the City impacted?*

6. Key Provision: Representation

- *When and how does the Sedro-Woolley public vote on the library project proposal and partnership ILAs? The District has a voter mechanism. Will the City's annexation come to a vote?*



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IV. Building Joint Development & Ownership ILA

A. Clarifying Questions and Comments on Key Provisions

No general comments

1. Key Provision: Ownership

2. Key Provision: Budget

- *How much more indebtedness will I pay on my property taxes? Will there be an increase or decrease?*
- *Five million is mentioned as the cost in the budget, but La Conner estimates their new building will cost \$3 million. Where does the rest of the money come from?*
- *Where does the gap in the budget get filled, as the \$1.2 million building cost plus the \$1.34 million for design already uses up half of the projected costs?*
- *Can the project be dropped if it is costing more than agreed to? See text in budget section, "unless parties agree otherwise."*

3. Key Provision: Funding

- *Where is the money coming from? Council-manic bonds?*
- *If City annexes into the District, who pays the bond after that?*
- *How much of the costs could be put to the tax payers?*
- *How do we cover these costs, what happens if there is an overrun?*

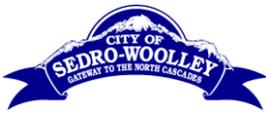
4. Key Provision: Building Design & Construction Administration

- *Is there a bid process envisioned before partnership approval step by the City Council?*
- *Is the old Marketplace Building the Mayor's preference?*
- *Is the team looking at other buildings and sites?*
- *What kind of square footage are we talking about?*
- *Who decides how big the library will be?*
- *Can current City Library site be remodeled or expanded?*
- *How will accessibility be considered in the site selection process?*
- *What are the breakdowns for square footage and different library uses?*
- *Is it established that the new library will be located within the Sedro-Woolley City limits?*
- *Will the needs assessment occur before the "green box" noted on Slide 4 Library Project Public Input Process?*

5. Key Provision: Reserve Fund

6. Key Provision: Roles & Responsibilities

7. Key Provision: Future Conditions



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V. Library Services ILA

A. Clarifying Questions and Comments on Key Provisions

- Great job on developing the agreement.

1. Key Provision: Levels of Service

- *Will the library have rooms for small meetings, not in the toy room?*
- *Is there a metric adopted for baseline level of service for libraries, what is it?*
- *Are we building a bigger building that meets level of service metrics, or will branches be used?*
- *How will new library be compatible to Sedro-Woolley School District's STEM program?*
- *Where are the guarantees that City Library staff will stay on? What happens if District's conditions are untenable to staff?*
- Glad City Library staff will be at the future library, as they'll care about collections.
- Initial library staff were involved in developing concepts.

2. Key Provision: Cost

- *What exactly is considered the building payment, what percentage will City pay?*
- *How much is the City Library's current cost to the citizen*

3. Key Provision: Renewal

- *What will City do if partnership falls apart?*

4. Key Provision: Effective Dates