



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: August 6, 2013
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Assistant Director of Community Services
Subject: Request by Vice Mayor Bosse and Councilmember Krasne for further information related to the capital improvement project budget request for the Library for fiscal year 13-14

Attachments: 1. None

INTRODUCTION

At the City Council meeting on June 18, 2013, Vice Mayor Bosse and Councilmember Krasne requested further information related to the capital improvement project budget request for the Library for fiscal year 13-14.

DISCUSSION

City Council generously funded the recent renovation of the Children's Library and lobby which has been extremely well received by the families of the community. Additionally, over the last decade, smaller portions of the downstairs area were renovated to accommodate the addition of the Friends of the Library Book Store and Kelly's Coffee and Fudge. Donations from various trusts, including that of Ernest Ach paid for the recarpeting of the Library Auditorium and meeting rooms. However, even with these efforts, more than 50% of this 70,000 square foot building remains largely untouched since the renovation of the building over two decades ago.

The Library has approximately 2000 visitors per day, so the carpet and furnishings receive a lot more wear than would occur in a home or light commercial operation. As a result, the adult areas of the Library are in need of new carpeting, painting, and some of the furniture needs to be refinished. The public restrooms at the front of the Library, used mostly by adults, are in need of painting, fixtures and new counter tops. Due to staffing declines and multiple restructurings of staff responsibilities, the addition of more efficient staff furnishings could free up additional floor space for use by the public. Finally, the sound and lighting systems for the Auditorium are at least a decade old and do not serve the needs of the City, community and rental groups that use this space.

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As a result, Library staff requested additional capital improvement funds for fiscal year 13/14 to address these needs. However, these projects can be deferred should Council feel that the time is not right to address these issues.

Staff projects that additional funds will be needed for fiscal years 15/16 and 16/17 should City Council decide to focus on areas outside the library. The book drop location that is immediately north of the library was intended for patrons to drop off books from their cars. However, this design was problematic from the outset. Patrons have never been able to pull up to drop off books without getting out of the car. Additionally, the configuration leads to excessive cross traffic with patrons pulling into and out of the Civic Center parking structure.

With the addition of the automated materials handling system, it would be more convenient for patrons to add some parking spaces in this area for quick drop of materials. Finally, the area at the corner of Rexford Dr. and Burton Way, is underutilized and the trees mask the building almost entirely. Over the course of time, staff would like to transform this area to an outdoor reading garden for children. Again, these projects could be deferred should Council not feel comfortable in funding them at this time.

FISCAL IMPACT

The following funds were requested as part of the capital improvement budget:

fiscal year 13/14 - \$300,000 (requested)

fiscal year 15/16 - \$150,000 (projected need)

fiscal year 16/17 - \$150,000 (projected need)

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council consider whether to fund the Library capital improvement projects as recommended by staff.

Don Rhoads, Director of
Administrative Services



Nancy Hunt-Coffey
Approved By