

From: Brad Sears [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 4:53 PM
To: Craig Veramay Craig.Veramay@cityofsanrafael.org
Subject: Craig Veramay - San Rafael Parks and Recreation Department

San Rafael Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan Meeting 1/18/23

Greetings,

Remember Measure C? It was promoted to support, repair and upgrade the Carnegie and runs like this- the roof and basement leaks, it's cramped and energy inefficient, has plumbing and ductwork visible as reasons to pass the measure. Have the repair issues been solved? Could it be another case of strategic neglect and mission creep? I would never have voted for Measure C if I was paying to abandon the Carnegie. The Library Foundation promoted the passage of Measure C which has collected \$49 per parcel since 2010. That is a phenomenal amount of money and deserves true accounting. Where have the millions gone? The last time I asked for an audit the Head librarian Sara Houghton quit immediately.

I believe that promoting a community center that abandons the Carnegie as a library is dishonorable and cowardly. With all the talk about community, where is the real outreach? Wouldn't it be prudent to challenge imaginative architects, designers and regular citizens, high school students, even carpenters and contractors to offer a design that honors Mr. Carnegie's will and good taste? A significant number of people feel that updating the Carnegie as the main library with satellite locations is the right thing to do. After all covid proved books and internet access is cost effective, safe and convenient with a diverse system.

Historically the design of public buildings such as our City Hall (right here in good old San Rafael) were chosen by submissions by architectural firms and have been a success because of the competition of ideas. I personally will fight to save the Carnegie as a library and submit a concept that expands, modernizes, honors the citizens that delight in its grace. I challenge the City and Foundation to challenge and reward regular people with an unbiased vision- not engineered consensus.

We can all agree on one thing. Everything has changed since Covid. Throw away your ridiculous Needs Assessment data not only is it stale and inaccurate it ignores many libraries in the area and square footage formulae and uninteresting architecture on a Costco scale.

The Library Foundation cites more parking, a need for more book space and demand for technology and collaborative space as well as the "public's interest to repurpose" the Carnegie. Satellite libraries historically are an effective way to serve the public and far less dramatic than unnecessarily abandoning a classic architectural gem for an antiseptic modern box like Knoll and Tam are known for.

The Carnegie sits on solid ground, 5th Avenue's Cultural Corridor. Albert Park is reclaimed swamp land and easily claimed by the unhoused. The question should and will be decided in the court of public opinion, Lets vote.

Respectfully, Richard B Sears

From: Craig Veramay <Craig.Veramay@cityofsanrafael.org>

Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 4:15 PM

To: Brad Sears [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Meeting tonight-Library Steering Committee

Hi Brad,

Yes, you're welcome to send us a letter or any thoughts you have. Are you referring to the Park and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting scheduled for this evening, or are you sharing your thoughts on the Libraries? Once received, we will route accordingly.

Thanks,

Craig Veramay | **City of San Rafael**

Assistant Library and Recreation Director

Office: (415) 485-3340

Pronouns: he, him, his



From: Brad Sears [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 3:56 PM

To: Craig Veramay <Craig.Veramay@cityofsanrafael.org>

Subject: Meeting tonight-Library Steering Committee

Can I send a letter for the record?