

Looking for more detail on Central Library proposal

REGINA, SK, September 6, 2022— The Friends of the Regina Public Library is looking for more detail on a proposal by the Regina Public Library Board about the future of the Central Library building in downtown Regina.

“The PDF available in the City Agenda does not indicate a proper process for public review of options available,” said Joanne Havelock, chair of the Friends of the Regina Public Library.

The RPL has publicly spoken about a figure of \$50 million needed for renovations, without any report being released on the facts and figures behind this claimed expense. The previous figure for long-term maintenance and renovation expenses was \$28.5 million.

Central Library is formally recognized by a City of Regina bylaw as being in the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District. Designed by Massey Award winning Regina architect Kyoshi Izumi, and opened in 1962, it is nationally recognized as an iconic example of modernist architecture, reflecting the new approaches to society and cultural norms of the 20th century.

Any improvements to Central should focus on retention, renovation, and an addition as needed, such as the award-winning Winnipeg Centennial Library, and many others around the world.

Through the years Regina residents have suggested many options regarding Central Library. At the most recent public meetings the majority of attendees supported the continued use of the current library building. In 2019 the RPL sent out a request for proposals for a consultant to help guide the RPL Board’s decisions regarding Central Library, looking at previous reports and collecting new information. The results of this work have not been made public. The RPL needs to make a full presentation of its ideas, and actively engage the citizens of Regina in looking at all the options, before making any decisions.

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Resources:

- A number of submissions have been made for presentation to City Council’s Executive Committee, including one from the Friends of the Regina Public Library.
<http://reginask.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=4610&Inline=True>
- Previous reports on Central Library <https://cld.reginalibrary.ca/?q=node/18>