

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Howard Tipton, Town Manager
FROM: Carolyn Brown, Support Services Director
REPORT DATE: January 29, 2024
MEETING DATE: February 5, 2024
SUBJECT: Sarasota County Library Public Outreach / Workshop Process

Recommended Action
None, Informational only.

Background

Over the past several years, the Town has been advocating for a community center/library as part of the Town Center Green development. At the Town and Sarasota County Joint Commission meeting on April 27, 2022, a request was presented to the County Commission to support the construction of a new library on the island. During their fiscal year 2023 (FY23) Budget process, the County Commission approved \$1 million to advance the planning and design of the proposed library.

Shortly thereafter, a "Principles of Agreement" document was drafted. The Town Commission approved this document at their January 31, 2023, meeting. The Principles of Agreement document is attached and outlines general responsibilities for the County and the Town regarding a land lease, design, construction, operations/maintenance, programming, and funding of the project.

Through an RFP (Request for Proposal) process, in which the Town participated, Borrelli & Partners (Borelli) was selected as the Architect for the project. Jon F. Swift was selected as the Construction Manager. County Administration, the Town Manager, and their respective staff have been meeting to discuss next steps which includes advancing the design of the new facility. The County has assumed the lead and Community Input Sessions (Workshops) are being planned at Town Hall on February 12, 2024, and March 18, 2024.

At the February 12, 2024 (1st Workshop) meeting, Borrelli will initially present information and will relay what the base library project will include and the approximate size of these spaces within the anticipated 8,000 square foot facility. There will be break-out sessions following this presentation which will provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and to provide their input on both the base project and any enhancements.

At the March 18, 2024 (2nd Workshop) meeting, Borrelli will return with a few concepts for further discussion. Once again public input will be collected.

A period will be established for fundraising and a deadline associated with timeframe for any donations toward the enhancements. The County will then create a construction project for funding consideration by the County Commission in their 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget process for a base library project. Any enhancements or additions to the project would be the responsibility of private donors. The Sarasota County Library Foundation will serve as the fundraising arm of the project for any additions or enhancements.

Next Steps

Two Community outreach meetings will take place; February 12, 2024, and March 18, 2024. Public input will be collected. Cost estimates will be developed.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachments

- A. Principles of Agreement (available in Town Clerk's Office)
- B. Timeline (available in Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item