



AGENDA ITEM: Resolution 2021-75 to Dakota County Board of Commissioners Regarding Library Project

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED: ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-75 FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE DAKOTA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE CITY'S DESIRE TO BECOME PART OF THE DAKOTA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM RESULTING IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW LIBRARY IN SOUTH ST. PAUL.

OVERVIEW:

The Library Board and the City Council have been trying to resolve the challenges associated with upgrading the South St. Paul Library facilities for a number of years. This past November, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to undertake a programming study to determine the appropriately sized library needed to serve SSP. They also asked the study to tell them what a \$6 million dollar project would buy.

The results of the study indicated SSP needs a library of 16,146 square feet based on their service model used in other similar Dakota County communities. The lowest cost option to accomplish that objective would be to utilize the City owned land at 7th & Marie. The total estimated cost for this option (exclusive of land) is \$8,266,000. To build at the current library site would cost \$11,463,000 (\$3,197,000 more). That project would not provide any off-street parking.

In terms of what a \$6 million project budget could buy, the study concluded the following:

- ◆ 11,700 square feet at City's 7th & Marie site
- ◆ 8,500 square feet at existing Library site
- ◆ A remodel of the current Library (11,840 square feet)

Neither the Library Board or the City Council indicated that any of these options were viable largely due to these projects lacking sufficient community space and the overall reduction in the recommended base program of 16,146 square feet.

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners will review this report at their General Government & Policy Committee meeting on June 8th. It is imperative that we send a supportive message to the County Board as they consider the possibility of incorporating the SSP Library into the Dakota County Library system and then building a new facility to meet the needs of this library. To that end, Resolution 2021-75 is attached for your consideration. The Council should discuss the resolution to ensure it sends the correct message. It should be noted that the Library Board is also adopting a similar resolution to be forwarded to Dakota County. This resolution is based on their decision this past Monday to support the 7th & Marie site for a new 16,146 square foot library and to reaffirm their commitment to become part of the DCL system. The Library

Board's decision is also contingent upon their involvement in resolving the details of the transfer itself as well as design considerations for the new facility.

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

TBD

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution 2021-75
Library Board Resolution
Dakota County PowerPoint Presentation

City of South St. Paul
Dakota County, Minnesota

RESOLUTION #2021-75

**RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE CITY'S SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTH ST. PAUL LIBRARY
TO BECOME PART OF THE DAKOTA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the City of South St. Paul submitted a proposal to the Dakota County Board of Commissioners in March of 2020 regarding the South St. Paul Library becoming part of the Dakota County Library system; and

WHEREAS, the City's preferred site for the construction of a new library was located at 7th & Marie Avenues; and

WHEREAS, the County Board authorized a programming study for a South St. Paul Library in November of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the programming study evaluated the 7th & Marie site as well as the current library site at Marie & 3rd Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the programming study has determined that a library of 16,146 square feet is needed to provide the recommended service level for South St. Paul; and

WHEREAS, the County Board will review the programming study results at their meeting of June 8th.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of South St. Paul, Minnesota does hereby resolve as follows:

1. We reaffirm our desire to have the South St. Paul Library merge with the Dakota County Library system.
2. We support and agree with the report findings that the City owned property at 7th & Marie is the most viable for a new library facility.
3. We believe a new library should be constructed to meet the base program recommendation of 16,146 square feet to meet the needs of the South St. Paul community.
4. We respectfully request that Dakota County provide full funding of the base program building project estimated at \$8.3 million.
5. We believe the involvement of our Library Board and other members of the community is critical in the design process for a new library.
6. We support the transfer of the South St. Paul Library collection valued by County Staff at over \$1.1 million to the Dakota County Library System as part of the merger process.
7. The City remains committed to working with Dakota County to achieve the objectives set forth by this resolution.

Adopted this 17th day of May, 2021.

City Clerk

City of South St. Paul
Dakota County, Minnesota

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-83

**SOUTH ST. PAUL LIBRARY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE
COUNTY LIBRARY IN SOUTH ST. PAUL**

WHEREAS, the South St. Paul Library Board has been studying various possibilities for an improved library facility to provide better public service since 2016; and

WHEREAS, the South St. Paul Library Board values the unique character of our current library building but recognizes its challenges for staff and visitors alike as well as the high cost of renovation; and

WHEREAS, the South St. Paul Library Board voted on March 9, 2020, to the submission to the County of the Proposal Regarding the “Transfer of Library Operations from the City of South St. Paul to the Dakota County Libraries,” with the understanding that the Library Board would be involved in future discussions; and

WHEREAS, in said Proposal, the preferred site option for a remodeled/new library was the existing library site combined with the Lawshe Museum site if the Dakota County Historical Society discontinued its operations at Lawshe Museum; and

WHEREAS, the preferred site is now the City and Special School District #6 Property at 7th and Marie Aves. since the Dakota County Historical Society is not vacating the Lawshe Museum site; and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2020, the County Board agreed to conduct a programming study, with cost estimates for construction/renovation/remodel, of our current site and the two properties at 7th and Marie Aves.; and

WHEREAS, the study concluded that the optimal size of a library built to Dakota County standards in terms of services, space considerations, amenities, etc., would be 16,146 GSF (full Base Program); and

WHEREAS, the study also concluded that the best option for the full Base Program would be a new library on the City-owned property at 7th and Marie Aves. (Option 1B) at a cost of \$8.3 million with the possibility of creating a net zero facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTH ST. PAUL LIBRARY BOARD FOR THE CITY OF SOUTH ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The South St. Paul Library Board confirms its intention to merge with the Dakota County Library System (DCL) at a future date agreed upon by all Parties and subject to the Library Board’s involvement in future discussions regarding a new Dakota County Library in South St. Paul.

2. The South St. Paul Library Board concurs with the Dakota County Programming Study recommendation regarding the construction of a new library on the City-owned property at 7th and Marie Aves.
3. The South St. Paul Library Board support is contingent upon the County providing full funding of the base program (16,146 GSF) as proposed in the Dakota County Programming Study.

Adopted this 17th day of May, 2021.

City Clerk