



News Release

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For Immediate Release

Facility Planning Update

Library Board Exploring Concept of Joint Project with City Of Wilmington

Wilmington, IL -- The Wilmington Public Library District Board of Trustees has been seriously investigating options to provide additional space for our growing community for more than a year. Efforts have focused primarily on the feasibility of expanding and renovating our existing library, as well as the possibility of constructing a new building on a variety of potential yet undetermined sites. Originally, the Board hoped to have a plan developed and ready to present to the community as a referendum proposal in April 2009.

However, this summer the Library was presented with a potential third option by the City of Wilmington – collaborating with the City on a joint building project. The City is currently exploring options to construct a centralized municipal center or complex that may include a new city hall as well as a police station, and possibly a new library. While no decisions have been made and discussions are preliminary, the Library has committed to studying the idea carefully and extensively with the City in the coming months. Based on this, the Board feels there is not adequate time to do a thorough investigation, engage the community in the discussion of all options, and finalize a plan prior to the April 2009 election. Therefore, the Board has decided not to “rush” the process prematurely and is now tentatively targeting April 2010 for a possible facility project referendum.

The Library will continue to study the original options as well. Apace Design of Peoria has conducted a thorough feasibility and site evaluation regarding the potential renovation and expansion of our existing library. Preliminary findings indicate the existing structure could be expanded and heavily renovated if the Library can secure ownership of four parcels of property directly adjacent to the site. These properties would be required to provide an appropriately sized new addition, as well as parking. Right now, the Library is contacting neighboring property owners to assess their potential interest in selling and exploring the costs associated with purchasing these properties at fair market value.

The Library will continue to reach out to its patrons and the community as a whole in the coming months to share information about the various options – all well before final decisions are made regarding a potential referendum. We welcome and encourage community discussion about our facility planning and urge residents to stay interested and involved in the process.

For more information, please contact *Library Director* Mary Soucie at 815-476-2834.

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