

REPORT

Oakville Public Library Board

Meeting Date: February 24, 2022

FROM: Oakville Public Library

DATE: February 15, 2022

SUBJECT: CEO Update – February 24, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

That CEO Update report be received for information.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- Detailed design for the North Park Facility is roughly 75% complete.
- Two concerns around zoning requirements for the Sixteen Mile Branch relocation are being discussed with the Town of Oakville Planning department.
- The 2022-2024 OPL Strategic Plan will launch following its presentation at the February 28 Council Meeting.
- OPL's response rate for the Diversity and Inclusion Staff Survey as of February 14 is 71%.

BACKGROUND:

N/A

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

North Park Library and Community Center

Detailed Design

OPL and Town of Oakville Recreation and Culture staff along with Diamond Schmitt Architects have been working to complete detailed design for the North Park facility. The design current sits at about 75% complete. The Board will be provided with an overview of the updated design at the February 24 Board Meeting.

As a reminder, the Library will be a two floor facility with the upper level open to the below to allow for good sightlines. The space is being designed to accommodate a Creation Zone and a Tinker Lab (makerspace geared towards children ages five to twelve), video and sound areas and an outdoor space. All of the other more standard library elements will also be included such as program rooms, meeting rooms and an automated sorter.

Community Consultation

A public consultation meeting will be held for those interested in the North Park facility in early March. The meeting will commence with a video introduction which includes messages from Mayor Burton, Councillors Parmar and Singh as well as Councillor Knoll representing OPL. After the opening session, participants will be able to breakout to get more detailed information on the particular areas. OPL will be hosting a single breakout room and will be providing a detailed overview of the Library before engaging participants on programs/ collections/ technology items they may wish to see as part of the new branch.

Other options for further community consultation are also being explored.

Sixteen Mile Branch Relocation

The Sixteen Mile Branch relocation planning is underway. OPL and Town of Oakville are working with Steinhoff to prepare and plan for the move of the facility to the North Operations site.

The following two zoning concerns are being discussed and we are working closely with the Town of Oakville planning department to resolve:

- Height – Zoning requirements for the area require a minimum height of 11 meters and the Sixteen Mile branch is five meters.
- Setbacks – The zoning requires a six meters setback from the parking lot however, the land only allows for three meters. Looking at options to adjust the parking lot to accommodate.

Timelines are still being established and a status update will be provided at the Feb 24th board meeting. Once an estimated timeframe for the move has been identified, OPL will work with the Sixteen Mile Sports Complex to ensure customers have access to key OPL services during the closure.

Strategic Plan launch

The 2022-2024 OPL Strategic Plan will launch at the February 28, 2022 Council meeting. Chair Knoll and CEO Wong will present an overview of the plan to council. OPL will follow-up with Councilors to discuss impacts and ideas for their specific wards.

Two videos have been recorded (public/staff) to frame the new plan and how it will guide OPL's planning and initiatives for the next three years. The launch will also consist of a dedicated website page and numerous social posts to encourage customers to engage with OPL around the new strategic plan.

Diversity and Inclusion Staff Survey

OPL is partnering with the Town of Oakville on a Diversity and Inclusion staff survey. The survey launched to all staff on January 27, 2022. Initially, concerns were raised from OPL staff regarding items such as privacy and intended use of survey results. An all staff Town Hall was held on February 7, 2022 to address these concerns. Rebecca Brookes, Corporate Strategy Program Advisor spoke to the Town's Diversity and Inclusion roadmap that prompted the survey and the work that the Canadian Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI) is doing to ensure the strictest levels of privacy for all survey responses. Heather Wray, OPL Supervisor spoke to her work as part of the Corporate Diversity and Inclusion group, while Tara Wong, CEO spoke to how the information gathered from the survey will be used.

As a result of this work, OPL's response rate as of February 14 is 72%. A final number will be presented to the Board following the close of the survey on February 17. CCDI indicated that a response rate of roughly 47% was to be expected for the first introduction of a Diversity and Inclusion Survey.

Prepared and Submitted by:
Tara Wong, CEO