

# CITY OF COOS BAY JOINT WORK SESSION

## Agenda Staff Report

| MEETING DATE     | AGENDA ITEM NUMBER |
|------------------|--------------------|
| October 28, 2025 | 2.a                |

TO: Mayor Benetti, City Council President DiNovo, City Councilors, Library Board Chair Langlinais, and Library Board Members

FROM: Nichole Rutherford, City Manager

THROUGH: Nichole Rutherford, City Manager

ISSUE: Library Planning Discussion

### **SUMMARY:**

A joint work session between City Council and Library Board to discuss library planning, including the future of the current library facility.

### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

No action necessary; discussion only.

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **Summary of past efforts:**

- **2014-2016:** Major foundation issues discovered at current library (525 Anderson Ave). Council determined new facility more practical than repair. Library Steering Committee formed; Hacker Architects completed a Needs Assessment defining space and cost requirements.
- **2018-2019:** Urban Renewal Agency purchased property on Ocean Blvd., outside flood/tsunami zones. Cascadia Consulting completed a Funding Feasibility Study, confirmed \$18.6M project feasible via grants, donations, and a General Obligation (GO) bond.
- **2020-2021:** Legislative funding request denied; bond postponed; maintenance completed to extend existing facility lifespan.
- **2021-2022:** Site work at John Topits Park ("The Ridge"); schematic design completed; May 2022 bond did not pass.
- **2023-2024:** Probolsky Research conducted public survey; May 2024 advisory vote held for siting —Downtown vs. Ocean Blvd. Council selected Downtown site (525 Anderson Ave).
- **2024-2025:** November 2024 GO Bond request did not pass.
- **2025-2026:** Library Facilities Steering Committee reconvened to reassess future path forward. Joint work session with City Council and Library Board scheduled.

Some key talking points for the joint work session might include:

#### **Shared Understanding**

- Recognize public engagement and due diligence to date.
- Acknowledge ongoing structural and operational challenges at current facility.
- Affirm community's support for library services.

#### **Current Facility Reality**

- What is the remaining functional lifespan of the current building?
- What repairs or upgrades are necessary to maintain operations safely?
- What are the financial implications of maintaining vs. rebuilding?

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**Revisiting the Vision**

- Does the 2016 design still reflect community needs and fiscal reality?
- Should the project be scaled, phased, or redesigned?
- Which services and spaces are essential for a future library?

**Funding Pathways / Options to Explore**

- Revised or smaller GO Bond.
- State/Federal grants and partnerships.
- Phased construction or private/public collaborations.
- Capital construction campaign.

**Governance & Next Steps**

- Clarify roles of Council, Library Board, and Steering Committee moving forward.
- Decide whether to update feasibility or community engagement studies.
- Set short-term milestones:
  - Define direction (Repair / New Build / Phased Plan)
  - Identify funding strategy
  - Public communication and engagement timeline

**Community Engagement**

- Discuss how to rebuild public trust and gather new input.
- Explore fresh outreach methods (listening sessions, focus groups, survey refresh).
- Determine messaging to align the project with broader community goals.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

None.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**