

November 1, 2018

Dear Mayor Chaffee and Members of the Fullerton City Council:

The Library Board of Trustees appreciates the time and thoughtful work done by the Library Ad Hoc Committee. In only four meetings, this group of dedicated community members asked many important questions, listened respectfully to many proposals, had relevant discussions and wrote a thorough, complete committee report. Their recommendations to Council reflect the spirited and thoughtful contributions of each individual member.

We endorse the goals presented by the Library Ad Hoc Committee, and we agree with their first priorities emphasizing a broad spectrum of literacy programs. This priority would include Art, Culture, Museum Uses, Events, Activities and Classes which would benefit the larger Fullerton community. This vision is in perfect alignment with the mission, philosophy, and objectives of the Fullerton Library and the donor's original intent for the gifted library.

The Trustees would add three suggestions to the report. First, we'd strongly encourage the council to select a preferred use from the broad menu of potential primary uses offered by the ad-hoc committee. Without the Council weighing in to narrow the field of uses to research, the effort to rededicate the Hunt Branch Library may stall or fail.

Second, the services of an experienced grant writer and/or project manager would be a wise choice to implement the Council's next steps concerning preferred uses of the building and grounds. Asking city staff to fold focused and dedicated attention into their day-to-day responsibilities may delay or degrade responses to requests for proposals.

Finally, a funding source should be cultivated to refurbish and enhance the bridge leading to the Library's front door. This may need special attention. We suggest the Council encourage Fullerton's State Legislators to include such a project in potential funding requests through Sacramento's budgeting process.

The Library Board of Trustees is in full support of the bold report the Library Ad Hoc Committee has submitted and is grateful for the opportunity to add comments prior to full consideration by the City Council.

Sincerely,

Ellen Ballard

Designated Representative of the Fullerton Public Library Board of Trustees