

June 9, 2014

Ms. Ulli Watkiss
City Clerk
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
12th Floor West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Watkiss:

Re: Scarborough Civic Centre – Civic Green (EX42.25)

I am writing to advise you that the Toronto Public Library Board, at its May 26, 2014 meeting endorsed the following motion by a margin of 9-2:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

- 1. approves further additional commitment increases for the Scarborough Civic Centre Civic Green project, funded from the City capital budgets, subject to City Council approval of the additional funds, for an increase to the award for construction to Aquicon Construction Co. Ltd. by an amount of up to \$1,000,000, for a total award of up to \$9,427,309.29 [excluding HST]."*

The Project and Benefits

The Scarborough Civic Centre Branch is a 14,500 square foot facility currently under construction adjacent to the Scarborough Civic Centre. It will be the Toronto Public Library's 100th branch. Once complete, this branch will provide state-of-the-art informational and recreational collections and services for a projected population base of 40,000 adults, children and workers, will serve users as a gateway to the resources of the entire library system, and be an iconic addition to the Scarborough community.

Library Board

Chair

Michael Foderick

Councillor Paul Ainslie
Lindsay Colley

Councillor Cesar Palacio
Ross Parry

Vice Chair

Councillor Jaye Robinson

Councillor Janet Davis
Councillor Sarah Doucette
Cameron MacKay
Kevin McGuire

Kenneth Stewart
Benjamin Wulffhart
Andrea Zammit

Chief Executive Officer

Jane Pyper

In accordance with the Scarborough Centre Public Space and Streetscape Master Plan adopted by Council on July 11, 2012, streetscape enhancements along Borough Drive are being undertaken in conjunction with the project. At the request of the local Councillor, the Library was asked at its April 28, 2014 and May 26, 2014 Library Board meetings to incorporate the design and construction of the "Civic Green" into the library project and additional commitments were approved by the Library Board, provided that Council approves the funding availability.

Improving Services in a Financially Responsible Way

Over the last 3 years the Toronto Public Library Board, with the support of City Council, has established an excellent record of offering improved services to Torontonians in a financially responsible way. Since the current Board's term began, and thanks to the excellent work of library staff, the Toronto Public Library has managed to expand open hours, expand collections, expand programs, and fund the operating expenses of opening of two entire new branches, despite significant inflationary pressures, all within an operating budget that spends approximately \$3.5 Million less taxpayer dollars in 2014 than it did in 2011. The Fort York Branch, Toronto's 99th library branch which recently opened, was entirely funded by non-debt capital funding sources at no cost to the taxpayer.

The advantage of consolidating the "Civic Green" project with the Scarborough Civic Centre Library construction is greater efficiency in the design and construction process and minimizing the time of any disruption to library service or the local community in the future. It would not be an efficient use of public resources to pay multiple contractors to do some work twice, when we can pay one to do it all at once.

I hope that Council will support the position taken by the Library Board, and help to make the Scarborough Civic Centre Library an extraordinary addition to the library system and to Scarborough.

Sincerely,



Michael Foderick
Chair
Toronto Public Library Board

/nrm

Copy to: Toronto City Councillors