

June 24, 2013

His Worship Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua
and Members of Council
City of Vaughan
2141 Major MacKenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1

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Item #	<u>Addendum 1</u>
Report No.	<u>—</u>
<u>Council - June 25/13</u>	

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

Re: **Renovations at Kleinburg Library**

In the 2013 budget deliberations, Vaughan Public Libraries was awarded significant funds to repair the aging infrastructure of Kleinburg Library, located at 10341 Islington Avenue. The VPL Board has taken this opportunity to enhance the design, ambience and functionality of the building while increasing energy efficiency and accessibility.

A working group comprised of Nino Rico, Architect, City of Vaughan Buildings & Facilities staff, and VPL staff, in consultation with City of Vaughan Cultural Heritage staff, created an exciting and practical design. Key components of this design were increased transparency and greater connections with the community through large windows inserted in the front/western exposure.

The proposed design will result in an infusion of natural light from all elevations. Of greatest impact is the removal of a portion of the stone wall on the western wall and replacement with large western facing windows. This wall acts as a barrier between the library and the community, rendering the library as a fortress from the street. Replacing a portion of this wall removes this barrier and facilitates a much greater connection between the community and the library. The large window offers a view into the library revealing a vibrant, exciting place and increases transparency. Partial retention of the wall is proposed to retain the familiar look Kleinburg residents have come to expect.

Increased accessibility will be achieved with an additional handicapped parking space and a ramp to the lower level community meeting room. An exterior reading garden with accessible wifi has been added on the south and east sides of the building. Interior climate will be regulated by a new HVAC system that will be more energy efficient. A conversion to energy efficient lighting and removal of electric baseboard heaters will further increase energy efficiency. The deteriorating emergency exit on the northern exposure from the second floor will be replaced. The parking lot will be expanded as currently insufficient parking is available.

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It is proposed that the horizontal style of architecture be retained and further enhanced with the proposed extension of the lower horizontal roof on the southern exposure acting as an entrance to the patio and accessible ramp as indicated in the Kleinburg-Nashville Heritage Conservation District, which states in the description of Kleinburg Library that "any additions to this structure should be in keeping with the horizontality of the original design".

The current proposal was created integrating customer feedback from two recent focus groups and two customer surveys conducted within the past three years. Through these mechanisms, VPL learned that customers of Kleinburg Library desired increased accessibility, outdoor spaces with picnic tables or benches, increased parking, and dependable heating and air conditioning.

The VPL Board proposal was presented to the Heritage Vaughan Committee on June 19, 2013 by architect Nino Rico. Even though supported and recommended for approval by the Cultural Heritage Coordinator and the Manager of Cultural Services, City of Vaughan, Heritage Vaughan did not support the proposal as presented. Rather, Heritage Vaughan expressed concerns with the partial removal of the stone wall façade on the west due to its historical significance. VPL Board's consulting architect, Nino Rico, believes this stone wall does not represent a significant architectural feature or design. The VPL Board believes it impinges upon the Board's ability to accomplish its mission.

An aggressive community consultation was initiated and convened following the Heritage Vaughan meeting as suggested by Heritage Vaughan to gather community feedback concerning the proposed design. Community input was generated through numerous social media channels including Twitter, Facebook, VPL's eNewsletter and the VPL website. Displays of proposed renderings were erected at both Kleinburg and Pierre Berton Libraries and staff were on hand to discuss proposed improvements with customers. In total, more than 80 individual customers participated in the community consultation.

Community response was overwhelmingly positive with such comments as "Love the idea of outdoor area...bigger windows area plus more parking. Hurry along with this!! Much needed", "Additional parking is a MUST", "I like all the natural light and windows at Pierre Burton (sic) so the added windows at Kleinburg would be a welcome addition", "Reading garden is awesome", and "This is great for moms with kids and seniors".

When asked about the proposed front windows versus retaining the existing stone wall, the vast majority, 84%, were in favour of the proposed large additional windows on the western exposure. Of the 13% that supported retaining the fronting stone wall, one customer commented that they believed it to be a "landmark and of a certain era" and felt "the funds could be better used for services".

This request is before Council at this time as time is of essence. As a portion of the proposed renovations relate to external spaces, approval to proceed is required and cannot be delayed until fall 2013 or this project will be delayed into spring 2014.

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The VPL Board asks that Council support the recommendation of the Heritage Vaughan Committee as provided by the Commissioner of Community Services with one significant exception - please delete section five 5) "That the stone wall be retained intact at the façade and that windows be considered for interior lighting proposed either on the north side of the building, or the continuation of the smaller windows above the stone wall or that the architect entertain other options for windows." The VPL Board is firmly committed to Nino Rico's proposed plan which includes removal of a portion of the stone wall façade and replacement with windows as a key element of the renovation.

Please know that this is in no way intended to undermine the contribution of Heritage Vaughan to retain the architectural heritage of the City of Vaughan, nor is it intended to be disrespectful of Heritage Vaughan's opinions.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael McKenzie
Chairman
Vaughan Public Library Board



Margie Singleton
Chief Executive Officer
Vaughan Public Libraries

Board/Letter to Council-Kleinburg Renovations py

cc: Barbara Cribbett, Interim City Manager
Marlon Kallideen, Commissioner of Community Services
Jeffrey Abrams, City Clerk