
5th PUBLIC COMMENT Planning/Historic Commission meeting ITEM #3 FEBRUARY 6, 2025

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To City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>

Cc Public Comment - PC <PCpubliccomment@losaltosca.gov>; Public Comment - HC <HCpubliccomment@losaltosca.gov>

Council Members and Commissioners:

I truly hope this is my last public comment on this topic.

I have been asked where I got the 5,000 sf number for a previous version of the library patio.

I went back to documentation from the council meeting of November 28, 2023.

The action before Council that night did not specifically call out any dimensions for the patio. Only two items were in the agenda packet for that item:

1 The staff report, which says:

Consideration of the City Council

Tonight, the City Council is considering the general design, location, placement, and size of the Library Patio Project.

2 Concept drawings (added to the packet on November 27), which do not show dimensions. The only way one could determine the size would be to take an architect's ruler to the drawing, which notes the scale as 1/8" = 1'-0". That would have been a challenging exercise, given the curved design.

From the council meeting transcript:

Nick Zornes: "...full intent of the conceptual plan that's before you tonight was to kind of meet in the middle as best as we possibly could of the intended size of the previous square footage which was about approximately 7,000 square feet ..."

I assumed "previous square footage" referred to the June 27, 2023 meeting, at which time the staff report said:

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

Does the City Council wish to send this proposed project to the Development Services Director for review and necessary approvals for the use and expansion of approximately 7,700 square feet for construction of an enclosed patio with transitional green space at the Main Library.

At that meeting, Councilmember Fligor asked how library officials arrived at the proposed patio size and whether they were amenable to something smaller.

Librarian Rose Baiza indicated a lot of changes could and would be made.

Absent any specific dimensions in the November 28 packet, I believed architect Steve Sutherland when he said: "It's an L-shaped area. I don't think we have exact dimensions but it's about 5,000 square feet."

Apparently, the Town Crier also assumed that was the size of the patio Council voted on:

https://www.losaltosonline.com/news/los-altos-council-green-lights-controversial-library-expansion-proposal/article_328b9eae-93a8-11ee-9ffe-ef00e8bb2b17.html

"The conceptual plan would create 5,000 square feet of patio and walkway space on the north side of the library."

The 3-2 Council vote to move the concept forward did not indicate the size of the patio:

7. Authorization by City Council for the use of Civic Center Land for the Construction of Outdoor Library Patio and send to Planning Commission for Final Design Approval.

It's unfortunate that there's so much confusion over the details of this important project. I hope the commissioners at the February 6th meeting are absolutely clear on what they're voting on.

I spent a lot of time digging in to this. If I misunderstood or overlooked any information, I hope you will get back to me and let me know where I got it wrong.

Sincerely,

Pat Marriott