



## AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

**Meeting Date:** November 28, 2023

**Subject:** 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.

**Prepared by:** Nick Zornes, Development Services Director

**Reviewed by:** Jon Maginot, Assistant City Manager

**Approved by:** Gabriel Engeland, City Manager

**Initiated by:**

Los Altos Library Endowment, and Chou Family in collaboration with the Santa Clara County Library District.

**Previous Council Consideration:**

June 27, 2023

**Fiscal Impact:**

The Library Patio Project is fully funded by private donations through the Los Altos Library Endowment. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$2 million with no funding required from the City of Los Altos. Cost for review and approval of the Design Review, Conditional Use Permit and Building Permit associated with this project will be fully paid by the project sponsors.

**Environmental Review:**

The City Council action authorizing the review of the proposed project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). Subsequent action taken during the review of the proposed project will be analyzed separately under CEQA.

**Summary:**

On June 27, 2023, the City Council unanimously approved sending the Los Altos Library Patio Project to the Development Services Director for review and necessary approvals, with further direction to preserve and protect and include mitigations, if necessary and require pre-application study session design review pursuant to Section 14.78.040 of the Los Altos Municipal Code. The project before the City Council tonight reflects the direction provided on June 27, 2023.

---

City Manager

GE

**Reviewed By:**

City Attorney

JH

---



**Subject:** 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.

---

**Staff Recommendation:**

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.

**Purpose**

To create an outdoor space that provides residents with a place to read, relax, study, work, and learn. The patio will be used to provide free library programs for all ages, as well as open seating to use during leisurely time. Backed with research from professional library journals, outdoor spaces in libraries enhance the lives of residents. Due to limited space inside the library, library staff feel strongly that the outdoor space will expand options to best meet the needs of residents with an outdoor patio area.

**Discussion**

Since the June 27, 2023 City Council meeting the Project Sponsors have met regularly to further refine and define the Library Patio Project. The project has been regularly discussed with the Development Services Director, Santa Clara County Library District staff, History Museum representatives, Library Commission, Friends of the Library, Los Altos Library Endowment, and the Chou Family.

The regular meetings have discussed the location of the patio project, any mitigation required, how the project will function, finish materials, and general details such as size and shape. Mostly specifically, the Library Patio Project group have discussed how the project will integrate into the Civic Center.

**Analysis**

The initial project proposal was for a Patio Enclosure at the front of the library entrance immediately adjacent to San Antonio Road. This project would have enclosed the existing arbors, benches, and fountain which exists today. Due to the development standards that are in effect as of today the initial proposal would not have conformed thus necessitating an alternative location to be determined. Additionally, concern was raised that the community would lose their unrestricted access and enjoyment of the fountain feature which was dedicated by the residents at the City's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Once the project was sent to the Development Services Director for review a site alternative was discussed with the primary stakeholders of the project. The project before the City Council is the outcome of multiple working meetings and iterations to the project proposal which now proposes



**Subject:** 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.

---

a location alternative which mitigates any associated impacts and complies with all development standards established within the Los Altos Municipal Code.

The project proposes a new patio on the north side of the library immediately adjacent to the Apricot Orchard. Specifically, the project proposal **does not** remove any apricot trees as no trees exist today in the area which is proposed. The project design professionals have taken consideration of apricot tree locations and provided alternative locations in order to address the concerns of the History Museum. The project will include an enclosed patio area with multiple exterior entrances, perimeter fencing, umbrellas and shade features, new planting materials, hardscape and outdoor rated furnishings.

### **Consideration of the City Council**

Tonight, the City Council is considering the general design, location, placement, and size of the Library Patio Project. If authorized the project will proceed to the Planning Commission where final design such as project materials will be reviewed and approved. General direction and consideration of design characteristics should be provided to the Planning Commission. Consideration by the Planning Commission after tonight shall reflect final action and approval of the project.