

## **Report on Exploratory Inquiry – Dan Gottlieb**

**City timing:** We asked the city for clarification on their timing, since they are proceeding with an architect selection prior to Central Skagit Library decision or negotiations. Mr. Berg responded that if CSL decides to negotiate, they will slow down the process with the architect.

**Location:** We asked if the city had any flexibility on their desire to locate in city core. The city is reluctant to consider locations outside of downtown, their interests being revitalization and pedestrian access.

**Size/expense of proposed library:** We asked if the city would consider a smaller facility in terms of the CSL's interests in preserving fiscal capacity to provide services in other parts of the district. They are flexible on this but want to be sure it is large enough to provide adequate service. Dan indicates that 15,000-17,000 sq. ft. is a pretty common size for a library serving the population of this area.

**Ownership:** We expressed interest in ownership at some point. City is not opposed to CSL ownership after debt is paid off.

**Major repair fund:** CSL interested in holding the major repair fund vs. the city holding it - city is amenable to that.

**Staffing:** City believes that during a transition period, some current part-time employees may not choose to continue working. Employees should be empowered to obtain technical training if needed. Continued employment would be subject to performance reviews as would be required of all staff.

**Governance:** CSL not interested in advisory board, instead asked if City would consider a city resident representative on the Board. They are amenable, with future potential to increase to 2 residents dependent on population trends.

**Contract vs. partnership:** The City proposal mentions both of these, but CSL would be interested in contract, with the City contracting with the CSL. City agrees.

**In closing,** Dan suggested that if CSL decides to proceed with negotiations, we should take action to authorize a refinement of the original proposal.