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## Report to the Library Board May, 2008

### *Action Items*

We will need Library Board approval for the transfer of funds from the now defunct capital project to purchase a site for a Far West Side Library Branch to the current Sequoya Branch project. The Comptroller's Office recommended that \$8,000 left over from the Far West site acquisition capital project be reallocated, and the Council has already approved the reauthorization of this money to the Sequoya project.

Also at this meeting, the Board will consider authorization to develop an RFP for re-development of the current Central Library site to include a new Central Library.

### *Facilities Planning Continues*

At this facilities planning segment of the meeting we'll review branches and their service areas, look at the emerging services areas on the City's east and west sides, and review current criteria for determining the location of new library branches. All of this will provide the basis for developing revised standards and criteria for future new branches and a timetable for their development.

### *Merger Report*

Last year a study was undertaken by a workgroup composed of the Directors of the Middleton, Monona and Madison Public Libraries, as well as the director of the Dane County Library Service, to study the service, funding and operating implications of merging these libraries into one larger library unit. The one-page synopsis of the workgroup's findings is in your packet, with the following conclusion: "While the workgroup continues to believe that consolidation offers library users certain advantages, it remains doubtful that consolidation offers taxpayers any short term savings." And, further, "it is unlikely that there will be the political will or popular support for changing the current public library service model in Dane County." Since the issue of merging libraries comes up periodically, we have documented our methodology, data, and findings for future reference; the full report will be available on the Web shortly.

### *Facilities Update*

The CDBG has decided to seek funding to partner with Madison School and Community Recreation to lease space in the former Jacobsen's space in the Meadowood Mall in order to operate a temporary community center in this space. As instructed at last month's Board meeting, I did report to CDBG that the Meadowridge Library could not expand into the Jacobsen's space at this time, and that a decision about the future of the Meadowridge Branch is part of the ongoing Board Facilities Planning process.

Planning for the Atrium space in the revamped Villager Mall is underway, and this week we should be reviewing responses to the RFQ for architects for the build-out of the South Madison Branch Library. The Urban League's purchase of the site for the building housing the new South Madison Branch Library, the Urban League of Greater Madison, and Planned Parenthood is still under discussion with the City.

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