

October 6, 2015

To the Mayor & Alders:

The Friends of the Pinney Library Board urge the Council to include the current proposed Pinney budget timeline in the 2016 City Budget.

Every day each of us on the Board has the profound pleasure of volunteering at Pinney in a number of capacities: sorting donations, stocking sale books, creating seasonal displays, and hosting events. It is an extraordinary library with an amazing staff. In a very small space they offer top-notch, creative, caring service to a very diverse community.

Yet every day we, the Friends Board, observe the steep obstacles the library staff has to overcome and deal with to provide this valuable information, instruction, and programming.

Seven times in 2015 the roof leaked in the current building. That means that seven times the library's greatly used collection was in danger of water damage or actually harmed. The Friends sorting room, where we collect items for sale to raise money for Pinney, was also inundated with water on several occasions.

The current space, with its very expensive rental price, is also infested with rodents.

The sewer pipe is broken and both the public and staff toilets back up on a regular basis.

The Pinney library now sits directly next to a large vacant building (the former Habitat ReStore). Birds have taken up lodging in that building and the incidence of human loitering has increased.

Essentially the current building housing Pinney is "untenable" in its purest sense: "not to be occupied."

Pinney Library is one of the most heavily used libraries in Madison & thousands of families depend on it. Please approve the amendment passed by the Board of Estimates that will begin construction in 2016. This library means so much to the community it serves.

Please feel free to contact me at 608-221-3997 or at this email if you would like the Friends to show you around the library; it would be our pleasure.

Sincerely,

Liz Dannenbaum

Jackie Jensen

Martha Nicholson

Gloria Welniak

Ann Lacy

Pam Duane

October 16, 2015

To Mayor Soglin and the Common Council:

Please include our comments in Legislative File #39672, 2016 Capital Budget:

The Rolling Meadows Neighborhood Association is writing to urge the Council to include the current proposed Pinney Library construction and relocation in the 2016 City Budget. The neighborhoods on the east side are eagerly awaiting a new library to serve our community. It has been a topic of discussion in many neighborhood association meetings and other meetings such as those about development for Royster Commons and Grandview Commons.

We would like to take this opportunity to make note of the following important facts:

- * Broad support exists in the surrounding community served by Pinney to relocate the branch.
- * The current building is defective and does not have adequate space to meet demand.
- * The developer has pledged \$1.175 million of in-kind contribution towards the project cost.
- * The Madison Public Library Foundation has secured \$437,000 thus far in pledges towards the project.
- * The new Pinney branch is considered to be the lynchpin of the new Royster Commons development.
- * All fundraising and planning had been geared to a 2016 target.
- * The project is shovel-ready and they're ready to go.

A library that is in good working order and has the capacity to handle the customer demand is important to healthy neighborhoods. Pinney Library is one of the most heavily used libraries in Madison and thousands of families depend on it. Please approve the amendment passed by the Board of Estimates that will begin construction in 2016. This library means so much to the community it serves. Please vote in support of the budget amendment which allocates \$3.6 million to begin relocation of the Pinney Library branch to Royster Commons in 2016.

Sincerely, Rolling Meadows Neighborhood Association Board:

William Schuth
Jordy Natzke
Merl Maiers
Lara Kenny
Mary Kelly

Matt Ida
Lori Johnson
Vern Maiers
Jerry Smith

EASTMORLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Post Office Box 14581 Madison, Wisconsin 53708

*Area bound by:
Highway 30, Stoughton Road,
Cottage Grove Road, Atwood Avenue,
Lake Monona, and Starkweather Creek*

October 20, 2015

Madison Common Council
Madison Municipal Building
210 Martin Luther King Blvd. #417
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Alders:

Please put the plans for rebuilding the Pinney Library back on track. We, the Directors of the Eastmorland Community Association, urge you to support the amendment sponsored by Alders Hall and Harrington-McKinney that returns the \$3.6 million funding to allow the project to continue.

In his CIP Budget the Mayor removed funding for the Pinney Library except for \$55K for design.

The amendment is a workable compromise that would allow for the "grey box" to be built in 2016 with interior finishing in 2017.

The current building is unfit for use: the roof leaks, rooms inundated with water, the sewer pipe is broken, and toilets back up. There are rodents. The city is paying \$10,000 a month in rent.

Please support the amendment proposed by Alders Hall and Harrington-McKinney.

Respectfully,

Kathy Soukup
Adrienne Belton
Patrick Soukup
Ed Woolsey
Carrie Ezzell

Jennifer Moore
Kris Whitman
Dan Glassman
Matt Covert
Bobbi Nowak

November 2, 2015

Re: Legislative File #39672, 2016 Capital Budget
Board of Estimates Amendment 20

Dear Mayor Soglin and City Alders:

On behalf of the Lake Edge Neighborhood Association, we wish to express our support for capital budget amendment 20 that would provide funding in 2016 for the relocation of the Pinney Branch Library to the planned Royster Corners development in our area.

Certainly by now, you have all been informed of the current building deficiencies despite high rental costs faced by the Pinney library. It is one of the most heavily used libraries in Madison, and our eastside neighborhoods continue to support and rely upon it.

Timely relocation of the Pinney Branch Library to its future site at Royster Corners, however, is critically important for so many other reasons as it will undoubtedly spur commercial and residential development of this former 26-acre fertilizer plant property and brownfield.

The Lake Edge Neighborhood Association, as well as the Eastmorland Community Association, have had more than just a keen interest in the future of this property since closure of the Royster-Clark plant by its new owner, Canadian-based Agrium, Inc., in 2006. We've been involved in the process for nearly a decade.

To summarize, a joint neighborhood steering committee was formed by local elected officials and neighbors in 2006 to develop a planning framework for the site. That led to a city-staffed Royster Clark Planning Team, created in 2007, to begin the detailed planning process for what had been the largest undeveloped site in the city. A county BUILD grant was secured later that year which funded a marketing feasibility study for the parcel. A neighborhood survey was conducted in 2008, and three public meetings were held in 2008-09 on various elements of what became the Royster-Clark Special Area Plan for this corridor. This plan was approved unanimously by Madison Alders and the Mayor in October, 2009.

The neighborhoods most affected have been fortunate that Rudebusch Development Corp. had the wherewithal and took the financial risk to purchase the site from Agrium, Inc. in 2011, and begin the long demolition/remediation and site development process. In 2013, city rezoning and subdivision approval was granted for the parcel. This year, City Urban Design Commission and Plan Commission approvals were given for the first residential and commercial buildings on lots 2 and 3 of the site. Included in these last approvals is the relocation of Pinney Branch Library.

Postponing funding for the Pinney library relocation to next year's city budget means actual relocation won't happen until 2018. City borrowing authority approved in late 2016 means the issuance of municipal bonds by mid-2017, followed by city contract approvals for new building

interior construction and relocation of the library which likely wouldn't happen until late 2017 or early 2018.

But a delay in city capital borrowing for the new library means more than just two added years of leaky roofs, bad plumbing and inadequate library space for what we spend on this lease. It will also slow and adversely impact the Royster Corners site development as a whole. The intended Pinney library space in Royster Corners is intended to serve as a trigger and anchor for subsequent commercial development and leasing of the surrounding lots on this site. And greater financial burdens faced by the Rudebusch Development team as a result of the delay could potentially jeopardize the ability of the developer to continue its pledge of \$1.2 million towards the library relocation costs.

For more than a decade, every aspect of city government...from city planning, the Mayor's Office and the Common Council...have recognized the importance to the city and our eastside neighborhoods of the successful redevelopment of the former Royster-Clark industrial site. The Pinney Branch Library relocation is part of that plan.

We urge that you move forward with that plan without delay, and support Amendment 20 to the 2016 city capital budget.

Sincerely,

Tom Stoebig, President
Lake Edge Neighborhood Assn.
4309 Hegg Ave.
Madison, WI 53716