

Comments to Westfield-Washington Township Library Board – 07.09.12

Tonight, I have only a few simple requests for the Library Board:

I request again, especially in light of last evening's discussion of a viable and available in-Town location option that has been identified, that this Board defer any decision to remonstrate or litigate, in favor of continuing dialogue with representatives interested in achieving an acceptable alternate in Town. A willing developer has been introduced to the Library Board, expressing his desire to partner with Board and Town representatives to work towards a mutually beneficial library site. This site is associated with a development proposal he will be filing with the Town in the near future. With agreement between Library Board and remonstrator to do so, I'm told a decision to proceed with remonstrance or litigation can be deferred while options are evaluated.

If this Board is compelled to take action tonight regardless, I request that earnest dialogue among the Library Board, developer, and other representatives continue during any cooling-off period required under Indiana Code, in the hope that it will become clear to the Library Board that library needs can be accommodated at the in-Town site and avoid a divisive remonstrance.

While Town Council will not force an opinion on the Library Board, Council will participate if requested, and to that end directed Council president Andy Cook to carry that message to Library Board president Bob Richardson. As such, I desire to have a simple yes or no answer to the question posed: does the Library Board desire to have current Town Council involvement or input into a location decision for a new library? Andy Cook indicated Bob Richardson's answer when he presented the question was "we'll have to wait and see what the decision from the Auditor's office is." I do not see the connection, but that decision has been rendered. So, while we are all here tonight, please indicate if this Board is interested in working with Town Council or not.

In closing, I remind everyone that I do not desire to be a part of a "winning" effort, and I do not desire to put anyone in a position of "losing." I do desire to be associated with an effort directed at planning a new state-of-art library facility, at the best location, and with all factors that should impact a major public building decision being considered.

Robert L. Horkay