



APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY
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**TO: Members of the Appleton Public Library Board of Trustees
Members of the City of Appleton Common Council**
**FROM: Dean Gazza, Director of Parks Recreation and Facilities Management
Colleen Rortvedt, Library Director**
DATE: April 19, 2021
RE: April Library Building Project Update

As you are aware, in March the Library Board and City Council selected Skidmore, Owings and Merrill to work on the library project. SOM is a passionate collective of architects, designers, engineers, and planners, dedicated to designing treasured public buildings and have significant experience in library design. SOM is known as a leader in design with extensive experience and is often entrusted with highly significant projects. Currently, SOM is the selected firm to design the Mulva Cultural Center in DePere, WI. SOM made the decision to propose on our project realizing Appleton is a vibrant community and this a unique project that will have a significant impact on the neighborhood and residents.

Upon approval of the recommendation to select SOM, staff and the City Attorney worked with SOM to finalize and execute the contract.

The initial activities include completing an existing building and site audit and developing the preliminary building program explaining operational functions and spaces as well as important adjacencies. This program serves as the initial plan for the architects to begin to develop early concepts that capture these operational needs. In addition, an audit of the current facility and the site is being conducted.

Recent progress:

March:

- Began survey work of the library property utilizing a drone
- Kick-Off meeting with SOM and city staff
- Building Condition Assessment was initiated with numerous SOM engineers and consultants on-site.
- Programming interviews conducted with library staff.

April

- Workshops with library staff and continued work with staff on programming

Upcoming activities:

April

- Finalize Building Condition Assessment

- Perform a building scan utilizing a LIDAR scanning technology. This will include the interior and exterior of the facility. A building scan identifies current conditions and minimizes change orders during construction
- Boundary and topographic surveys will be completed
- On-going work with staff on programming to best understand library operations

Public participation and opportunities for community engagement in the design process are in development we will be able to provide additional information in the coming weeks as we finalize this essential part of the process.