

June 24, 2014

Dear City Council members,

I have huge concerns about your newest plan for the Gladstone Library. While no one in Gladstone has any doubt that we need a new library, no one can agree how to go about it either. You are in a difficult position, and I empathize with you. I would not want to be in your shoes. I believe that your current plan is inherently flawed. The attempts of city staff to move forward are based on no real research and quite a lot of noise from a small but vocal group of individuals who do not have the wants and needs of the larger population of Gladstone in mind. There is much more to Gladstone than Portland Avenue.

If I had to pin the last failed library election on any one thing, it would be the utter and complete lack of information about the library project from the city. It is the city's responsibility to provide factual information during an election. For example, the County spent \$100,000 on the informational campaign for the library district. For our library election, the City of Gladstone produced one flyer, very late in the election. All that Gladstone citizens understood is that our taxes are too high and a new library project would likely increase them. They heard this over and over again by Save Gladstone who spent \$60,000 dollars on their anti-library campaign. This fact was also revealed by a survey – actual data that told us what voters were thinking. Has the city every contemplated such a survey to find out how citizens feel about Portland Avenue? Or where the library should be located? If not, why not? A survey isn't expensive.

By tying the library measure to an undisclosed location on Portland Avenue, you will have made several critical mistakes:

1. The proposed plan abandons the original design by THA and the substantial efforts of the library design committee (which city council appointed and which included Oak Grove citizens), who spent months working through that process. Is it reasonable to throw away \$1.2 million dollars and all those citizen hours? According to THA architects, the original plan could be modified incrementally to reduce the costs by at least 10 percent without a costly design change.
2. There is no available plot of land large enough on Portland Avenue for the building or the parking. And even if you could find one, the prices people will demand for their property will be unreasonable; or if you condemn property, the city could be tied up in court battles that could last for years.
3. This plan also abandons the Webster property after the city council twice designated it for a library, first when it was acquired; and again when you began the process to design the new library. It's in the city council minutes. The Webster property is already owned by the city and is available now.

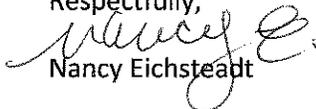
Gladstone Nature Park is a beautiful setting and a real asset to our town. Many of us use the trail for exercise, walking the dog, and getting to the middle school. My neighbors share many concerns about future development there. We are gravely concerned about the specter of a gravel pit in the middle of a

residential area. Add to that the noise and traffic of several hundred thousand of dump truck loads of gravel and think about what will happen to Webster and Oatfield roads. Purchasing a different location when we already own a suitable one doesn't make any fiscal sense. The property is available and paid for, which is not the case for Portland Avenue.

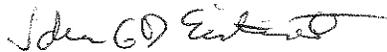
My concerns for the sale of the property are real. The city manager has suggested it be sold and the proceeds used to help finance the library on several occasions. He originally instructed the new library committee to disregard the Webster property as a library site. As long as the Webster property is owned by the city, it will be a target for this council or a future council to look at it as a kind of bank account to fund some yet unnamed city shortfall.

You can prevent this. You can build a really nice library, one that we all can be proud of, on the Webster Road property and safeguard the Gladstone Nature Park for the future at the same time. Please think about the needs of the entire City of Gladstone before you make this decision.

Respectfully,

  
Nancy Eichsteadt

John Eichsteadt



POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL FUND

- #1241403 Police Lieutenant – Approved by City Council. New position within the command staff. Sergeant Jolley was selected to fill this position.
- #1241430 FY 2013-14 shows an expenditure appropriation of \$9,200. This low appropriation was due to Officer Adam's retirement early in the fiscal year. For FY 2014-15 the line item reflects the expenditure appropriation for Officer Newton.
- #1241435 FY 2013-14 shows an expenditure appropriation of \$35,000. This appropriation was due to Officer House's retirement during the fiscal year. For FY 2014-15 the line item reflects the expenditure appropriation for Officer Herkamp.
- #1241440 – 1241455 Line items have been discontinued.
- #1241465 Municipal Ordinance Specialist -- Duties include code enforcement, managing the property & evidence function, and other tasks as assigned. This position is paid 50% through the Police Levy Fund and 50% through the General Fund budget.
- #1241500 Records Clerk – Handles records-related duties and provides customer service to citizens during standard business hours.
- #1241505 Police Reserves – Cost for the reserve unit reflects its proposed size of 5 reserve officers; we are processing applicants. Currently there is one reserve officer.
- #1241525 Overtime – This provides overtime for officers (per the collective bargaining agreement) and the sergeants.
- #1241526 Training Overtime – This OT is tracked internally to ensure officers meet & maintain all training requirements from DPSST. Increase reflects past actual and anticipated future expenditures in this line item.