



Oak Grove Community Council

March 10, 2022

Chair Tootie Smith
Commissioner Sonya Fischer
Commissioner Paul Savas
Commissioner Martha Schrader
Commissioner Mark Shull
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
2051 Kaen Road
Oregon City, OR 97045

Re: Oak Lodge Library and Concord property project

Dear Board of County Commissioners,

The Oak Grove Community Council (OGCC) is a Community Planning Organization (CPO) officially recognized by Clackamas County as part of its program to comply with State Land Use Planning Goal 1, requiring community involvement in land use planning and development. We are writing today to express our support for the proposed Oak Lodge Library to be constructed as a separate, freestanding structure designed in conjunction with the park at the Concord site.

The Concord property project was part of the February 23 Oak Grove Community Council agenda. At this OGCC meeting, Mark Elliott, who sits on the Concord Project Task Force, gave a report on the well-attended February 16 Task Force meeting.

At the OGCC meeting, Mr. Elliot gave an update on views expressed at the February 16 Task Force meeting, along with a slideshow presentation about the latest Concord complex design options, and cost and timeline comparisons. He noted that the BCC is seeking input from Concord project area residents about how to proceed. With this in mind, the OGCC membership chose to add its voice to the message of separating the library from the existing school building so that it can move forward now.

The following resolution was approved unanimously:

The OGCC states strongly that the community wants the Oak Lodge Library to be a separate, freestanding library built in conjunction with the park at the Concord site.

The motion passed with 17 aye votes and zero nay votes. There were no dissenting views expressed by any attendees during discussion, which included several non-voting members.

As noted in the resolution, the park should be an integral part of the library design. This way, when the park is developed, it will function synergistically with the library—with park views enriching the library experience and with outdoor spaces for story-time and events related to the library.

Oak Grove residents appreciate the BCC's request for community input about the Concord project. We look forward to a timely decision on the part of the BCC that will reflect the OGCC's desire for the library to move forward right away with full funding, while the park and community center elements of the Concord complex will follow later with an independent timetable and independent funding.

Thank you for considering the views expressed by members of the OGCC. Area residents have anticipated this new library for many years and are happy to know that it can be developed without further delay. This library will immediately establish the Concord site as a community heart, with the park and community center elements developed later to complete a vibrant central gathering place for the unincorporated Oak Lodge community.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Edge
Chair, Oak Grove Community Council