

MEMORANDUM TO CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: LIBRARY BOARD RECOMMENDATION

1. On October 29th the Library Board (Bea Dick, Irma Matthew, Dr. Rice, Les Jensen, and Charles Willming) met with architect George McMath and Dick Engen, State Librarian Fields Services Consultant. This meeting was held in the City Manager's office. The purpose in mind was to discuss the benefits and the necessary qualifications of the federal - state grant for construction of a new library.

2. Mr. Engen reported that the state regulations permitted a grant in the maximum amount of \$100,000 or one-third of the construction costs whichever is less. He pointed out that the state of Oregon had received an allocation from the federal government of \$330,000 for allocation prior to June 30, 1965. The city of Corvallis has received \$100,000 of this money leaving a remainder of \$230,000. The city of Coos Bay has indicated that they will apply if receiving approval for their bond issue to be voted at the November 3rd election. The only other city that would possibly be in a position for qualification within this date would be Astoria, therefore leaving The Dalles in a commendable position for a successful application. It is requested that an application for such a grant be placed with the State Librarian by December 1st which will allow them opportunity to review it and make their recommendation to the State Library Board meeting scheduled for December 9th. The State Library Staff, in reviewing the application, will consider the preliminary plans of the building in relationship to the area served, the long range program of proposed operating plans for library service (as formulated by the Library Board), and the general need of the community for library building improvements. It appears that the factor of qualifying the building for a regional library standard is not going to be considered.

It was pointed out that the American Library Association minimum standards indicate 15,000 sq. ft. for a library to serve this community. Although the state would not demand that these standards be met it would be the recommendation of the staff to the State Board that the area be increased above the 11,500 sq. ft. recently proposed. It was pointed out that some of this additional space could be utilized to provide meeting room facilities thereby allowing a broader community use of the facility.

3. As the conclusion of the meeting, the whole Library Board voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that the city apply for a federal grant for the full amount of available funds. This dollar amount cannot be determined until the architect completes revised preliminary plans and estimates for the building. It will be necessary to increase the building size about 2,000 to 4,000 sq. ft.; making a total area of 13,000 to 15,000 sq. ft. Council is therefore asked to consider the recommendation of the Library Board and act for adoption or amendment of their action.

Very truly yours,

C. Dean Smith
City Manager