Park, Jo-Ann

From: John

Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 8:19 AM

To: Kachur, Richard; Park, Jo-Ann; Swandel, Justin; Orlikow, John; Fielding, Scott; Wyatt, Russ; Thomas, Lillian; Browaty, Jeff; Lazarenko, Harry; Clement, Bill; Gerbasi, Jenny; Vandal, Daniel; Steeves, Gord; Nordman, Grant; Smith, Harvey; O'Shaughnessy, Mike; Pagtakhan, Mike; MYO-Mayor

Cc: Robert Brown; Mat Wiebe; Carole Kenning; Cam Neirinck; Elaine Smith; Jan Stuyck; Paul Lemire; rhargrave Dorothy Adrian

Subject: Lease Amendment - Henderson Library

EAST KILDONAN - TRANSCONA
RESIDENTS' ADVISORY GROUP

November 17, 2009

To Members of Executive Policy Committee and To All Members of Council

Re: Lease Amendment - Henderson Library

The East Kildonan – Transcona Residents' Advisory Group considered the subject matter at its meeting held on November 12, 2009.

The Residents' Advisory Group is of the view that continually renewing an existing lease over and over again, without community input and participation in the decision, does not determine for council and the community what is available in the community and what is the best deal for the taxpayer. **Nor does this sort of approach to providing a community service build community assets.** What will taxpayers and the community have at the end of the term? **Nothing!**

Leasing may have made some sense in the 1980s when the cost of borrowing was very high, and leases such as this were used, but today when interest rates are very favourable it makes better sense to utilize monetary resources to build community assets and infrastructure for today and the future. Council has to move with the times. Instead of paying for a lease we could be paying for a building that would be ours at the end of the term.

Yes this is the second most heavily used library in the city and it has been that way for a long time. We do not need an increase in population to justify a city/community owned library. The demand for a library that is taxpayer owned and a community asset has been here for many years.

Finally, Taxpayers need to know how much has been spent over the past 25+ years on lease and leasehold improvements for this leased library space. **As taxpayers, that in the final analysis pay the bill, are we not entitled to know that amount?**

The Resident' Advisory Group, in minutes of its Nov. 12/09 meeting, recommended to the East Kildonan Transcona Community Committee and now to all members of

Council:

- **that the lease not be amended/extended/renewed to 2029 –**

- **and - THAT FIRST OF ALL - planning commence immediately in consultation with the community to establish a city owned library building in our community.**

and - that any funds available for lease purposes be directed to a city owned library project and not to a lease amendment/extension/renewal as is being proposed

and - if the current location is good enough to spend millions of tax dollars on a lease for library purposes for an additional 20 years –

then - it is recommended that the entire property be purchased instead and what space is not required for library purposes be leased to existing tenants and/or others.

John G. Kubi, Chair
East Kildonan-Transcona Residents'
Advisory Group

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