SEVEN OAKS
SCHOOL DIVISION
community begins here

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May 17, 2022

Mayor Brian Bowman
& City Councillors
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Dear Mr. Bowman & City Councillors:

I write on behalf of the Seven Oaks School Division and its Board of Trustees to oppose the proposal to close the current West Kildonan Library and relocate it to an interior inaccessible space in the Garden City Mall.

We understand the desire to move library services closer to newer growing neighbourhoods but the plan to do so is deeply flawed.

Our Concerns

The current location was established in 1967 as the centennial project of the former City of West Kildonan. It is accessible, familiar and well used. It is an entity that contributes to the attractiveness and livability of an established neighborhood. Even if library services are relocated in the future it should be maintained as a community asset and repurposed in a way that fits and enhances the community.

The plan to relocate the library to the interior of the Garden City Mall is problematic. The proposed space has no direct access and no natural light. The city would invest $2 million in leasehold improvements and another $4 million over ten years in rent and have no asset to show for that investment. To our knowledge there has been no serious investigation of alternatives. If the West Kildonan Library is to be relocated we would recommend a stand alone accessible purpose built library connected to an existing campus such as the Garden City Community Centre or Maples Community Centre.

We are aware of several beautiful purpose built well located libraries in other areas of Winnipeg (Windsor Park, Transcona and the recently completed Norrie Library at the Pan Am Pool). We hope that Northwest Winnipeg can benefit from a facility such as those.

Our Recommendation

To our knowledge there has been no real public consultation of this. We urge councillors to defeat this proposal, develop better alternatives and conduct a meaningful consultation process.

Sincerely,



Greg McFarlane
Chair
Board of Trustees

ec: City Clerk (cityclerks@winnipeg.ca)