

September 22, 2011

From: J R <blueskies1836@yahoo.com>
To: jay.tibshraeny@chandleraz.gov, rick4ccc.@aol.com, trinity.donovan@chandleraz.gov, patrick.mcdermott@chandleraz.gov
Date: 08/30/2011 04:10 PM
Subject: Sunset Library Renovations

Aug. 30, 2011

Dear Honorable Mayor Tibshraeny, Councilman Heumann, Councilwoman Donovan and Assistant City Manager McDermott:

Thank you for accepting this second e-mail concerning the Sunset Library renovations. Please refer to my Aug. 23, 2011, e-mail. I would appreciate a return e-mail indicating that this correspondence was received.

On Monday, Aug. 22, 2011, Brenda Brown, Chandler's Library Manager, told me on the telephone that if I could locate a carpet for the same or lower price then the one they were going to install in Sunset Library in November that it would be "considered."

A search for hypoallergenic carpet and paint is important not just for myself, who has asthma and allergies, but for all of Chandler's citizens that have these physical ailments. Using hypoallergenic products is just common sense.

On Thursday, Aug. 25, Ms. Brown called me. She said that I could have had "input" if I would have attended the Aug. 16 improvements meeting at Sunset Library. Later in the conversation she said that the design company for Sunset's renovations, Durkin & Durkin, decided the carpet specifications approximately six months ago. I reminded her what she said earlier, that I could have had "input" at the Aug. 16 meeting. She said she was "not clear," the meeting was a "presentation" about what would be done.

Brown then said that there was a "consensus" among the design team – herself, Project Manager Dora Griffith, Sue Hoffman, Kris Sherman and Dan Lee – about the carpet. After I talked to Brown, on Aug. 25, I spoke in person to another member of the design team. That person said the group never spoke about the carpet, the design company made the decision.

Not only was I not given the straight story of whom made the decision that the non-hypoallergenic Shaw Carpet would be used, but why would Brown tell me to find another carpet then it would be "considered" when the design company made the decision which carpet would be used approximately six months ago?

When I asked her the price of the carpet, on Aug. 25, she said that the whole project is being bid on in its entirety not broken down into various bids. Why then would Brown tell me three days earlier to find a carpet at the same or lower price then it would be "considered."

The Library Manager said she was looking for a carpet with these qualities: A. Durability B. Good warranty C. Well-priced D. Easy to install Hypoallergenic was not on her list. The Shaw Carpet that was chosen (See the Aug. 23 e-mail), Brown said, is "admirable based on our experience." It appears that a search for a healthier carpet was not explored. I think the carpet could be the same, or very similar, based on the above comment, that was used five years ago in the Main Library.

Brown said there were "no complaints" about the carpet in the Main Library. Staff are not reporting to management the comments that patrons make. I spoke to staff about the fumes coming from the carpet. I would not be surprised if there were countless other negative comments about the carpet.

Brown did say the glue that is used to hold the carpet in place would be checked into. That is one step. However, if the

carpet is not hypoallergenic then finding a healthier glue will be for naught.

An “addendum” for the carpet could be completed, Brown said; it would cost between \$20,000.00 - \$30,000.00. The total cost of the Sunset Library renovation is \$1,000,000.00, she said.

The Library Manager also said she was not aware that air quality surrounding new carpet and paint is covered under the Americans with Disability Act. I told her it is. She wanted me to send her the information. I told her where I found it online. Is it my responsibility to supply information about the ADA to the City of Chandler?

Brown also wanted to speak to me on the telephone about my Aug. 23 e-mail. I asked her three times to e-mail me. She said, “I am too busy.” We spoke briefly about a few points in my e-mail.

I was told that meeting notices can be found online.

I asked about using the computers for more than two hours at the Main Library, as can be done at Sunset. That “wouldn’t be fair” to others, she said. This is one of the disadvantages of not being able to work in the Sunset Library since carpet was installed in the staff area in July. If computers are available after my two-hour time limit, there is no reason why I cannot continue my work.

What is quite surprising to me - besides not using the healthiest carpet, glue and paint – is that there appears to have been zero public hearings during the planning stages of this \$1,000,000.00 renovations project. Someone forgot to tell the design team that this is a very large chunk of taxpayer money and the citizens of the City of Chandler have every right to be a part of this process **from the beginning** and not be told at the end of the process, “this is what we have decided to do for you.” Not even the Library Board was involved in the decision-making. The first time the public has “input” is during the City Council’s approval or denial of the bid, probably in September.

I very much desire to speak at the City Council’s study session and City Council meeting, however, because of my asthma and allergy problems I will not be able to participate. The newly-built City Hall was opened in November. On Thursday, Aug. 25, I was in the building for the first time for approximately 15 minutes to drop off a letter to the Mayor and speak to a representative in the City Clerk’s office. I was coughing while inside the building and my breathing and sinuses were affected through Sunday night.

I will also not be able to speak at the September Library Board meeting in Sunset Library because of the newly-installed carpet and paint in the staff area. Brown said that because the Board voted to have the meeting at Sunset, it cannot be moved to the Main Library.

I stopped my search for a hypoallergenic carpet on Thursday after being told by Brown that the carpet was decided upon approximately six months ago. If I am told by the City that there is a possibility that another carpet could be used then I will begin my search once again. Finding hypoallergenic paint is very simple.

I am asking the City of Chandler to add an addendum to the renovations bid to include the Beaulieu Carpet under the Treelines or Cambridge line I wrote about in my Aug. 23 e-mail. Besides the hypoallergenic carpet in the entire library, use hypoallergenic paint, tear out the carpet in Sunset’s staff area and replace it with hypoallergenic carpet and to adopt my ideas – also listed in the Aug. 23 e-mail – concerning City Council and Library Board notifications, changing the location of the September Library Board meeting and altering the renovations bid date to October.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jay Rothman

----- Forwarded by Melanie Sala-Friedrichs/COC on 09/16/2011 12:10 PM -----

From: J R <blueskies1836@yahoo.com>
 To: jay.tibshraeny@chandleraz.gov, rick4ccc@aol.com, brenda.brown@chandleraz.gov
 Date: 08/23/2011 04:30 PM
 Subject: Sunset Library Renovations

Aug. 23, 2011

Dear Honorable Mayor Tibshraeny, Councilman Heumann and Ms. Brown:

Before the carpet and paint renovation in the staff area of Sunset Library last month I would use the facility six to seven days a week, approximately two to four hours a day. Since the renovation, I have not been able to work in the library because fumes from the carpet aggravate my asthma and allergies.

Ms. Brown told me that I am the only person who has "complained" about the carpet. Perhaps others simply turned around and left the building. Perhaps library staff were notified, but did not relay the messages to management. No one can be certain. What is certain is that the chemical fumes are dangerous to a segment of Chandler's population.

I learned about the renovations at Sunset at the end of June when I heard two staff members talking about the change in carpet. The next day I called Ms. Brown. She did supply me with the carpet information. I called Shaw Carpet and the Carpet and Rug Institute because they certified the carpet "Green Level Plus." I learned yesterday that that designation means the carpet is recyclable, it is not hypoallergenic. I understood that the process was complete, thus there was no way I could alter the decision. I discovered yesterday that there was a misunderstanding between Ms. Brown and myself. Apparently she meant the "plans" were complete. I thought she meant the entire process, including the bidding and City Council approval, was final.

These are the items I am respectfully requesting:

1. Post Library Board and City Council meeting notifications at the front of all Chandler libraries, at the reference desk and checkout areas.

I have no doubt that the City of Chandler abides by the Open Meeting guidelines. This additional notification would make a larger segment of Chandler's population aware of the important work the City is contemplating. I would expect that participation by the general public would rise.

2. Change the 6:30 p.m. Sept. 20 Library Board meeting from Sunset Library to the Main Library. Have all future Board meetings at the Main Library.

The Main Library is the jewel of the Chandler Library system, not the branches. Also, I would like to participate at the next Library Board meeting. Because of the carpet fumes at Sunset Library I would not be able to attend.

3. Push back the final bid date from Aug. 30 to Friday, Oct. 28.

A part of the reasoning for this will be answered under request #4. I would like to ascertain if a particular set of standards for the covering of the floor in Sunset is specified. In other words, must it be carpet. I am requesting Oct. 28 because that is more than one month after the next Library Board meeting, enough time to bid on new specifications.

4. Expand the possibilities for Sunset's floor covering and paint.

Ms. Brown asked me yesterday to find a carpet at the same or lower price than the Shaw carpet (style name: disperse tile; fiber: eco solution q nylon; and secondary backing: ecoworx tile).

- A. I do not know the price of the Shaw carpet per square foot.
- B. Why are the project coordinators focusing on what is cheapest and not on what is healthiest?
- C. The safest solution to the chemical carpet odors is to install either tile or laminate. Ms. Brown said both of these surfaces are too loud. It cannot be louder than the library patrons who are constantly talking while using the computers.
- D. Use hypoallergenic paint. There are paints that emit far less fumes than the typical product.

5. Tear out the new carpet in the staff area at Sunset Library.

The carpet used is not safe for all of Chandler's citizens. Common sense would dictate that a hypoallergenic carpet (if carpet must be used) be installed so use of the library would not be curtailed. There are safer choices available than what has already been used. Why was this not thought of in the planning stages of the project? Handicapped parking spaces were designated in front of Sunset Library. Why? To help those who need assistance. Why would a carpet that emits no or far fewer fumes not be used in a public library? This is not only a common sense and moral issue, but one which is covered under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

6. What I learned yesterday in approximately two hours.

I called my asthma doctor in St. Louis. His office recommended that I call the Asthma & Allergy Foundation. They gave me the name of a flooring company that uses safer carpets. The company shared the name of a carpet manufacturer that is known to use a safer carpet, but they warned me that the glue used to keep the carpet in place could be causing the problem.

I then called Beaulieu (pronounced Bowlu) Carpet, (800) 227-7211. They told me that they use a salt-based compound they call Magic Fresh that eliminates new carpet smell and other odors. Beaulieu also said there are allergy-friendly pads that can be used and to speak to the manufacturer of the pads. They also said the problem could be from the glue. The adhesive company who makes the glue should be spoken with, they recommended. Beaulieu's website address is: www.blissflooring.com. Wendy Jaynes, marketing, was one of my three contacts. Her number is: (706) 272-7470.

Four companies in Chandler sell Beaulieu Carpet. I visited Karl Kramer, owner of The Carpet Broker Design Center, 1986 N. Alma School Road, (cell) (480) 390-0239, (work) (480) 558-9777, (fax) (480) 926-0001. Mr. Kramer has been in the carpet business for 53 years. He showed me a Beaulieu carpet in a Bolyu book under both Treelines and Cambridge. Both carpet lines are further broken down into tiles or broadloom. Those carpets were not emitting a chemical odor, unlike another carpet from a different company he showed me. It costs approximately \$2.50 to \$3.00 a foot to install. Mr. Kramer called me today and said he would contact me hopefully on Wednesday to tell me which businesses Treelines and Cambridge were installed in. I will then travel to a few of those locations and check out the carpet. Incidentally, Magic Fresh is called Puralex when used outside of residential buildings.

7. Working on the computer for more than two hours.

Ms. Brown, the Mayor suggested that I ask you if it would be possible to work more than the two-hour time limit on the Main Library's computers. Sunset Library does not have a time restriction.

I would also like to ask: what are the specifications that the bidders for the carpet and paint have to meet? I spoke with one of the Library Board members this afternoon. She said that the Board did not vote on the specifications. Who made the decision what the specifications would be?

My goal is to once again work safely in Sunset Library. There are the two safest options, tile or laminate. If the project coordinators and the Library Board refuse to go the tried-and-true route, **perhaps** the Beaulieu carpet, Treelines or Cambridge line, will be a safe alternative.

I will e-mail everyone once I have been in a few of the businesses that installed one of the Beaulieu carpets.

Please e-mail me indicating receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,

Jay Rothman



**PURCHASING ITEM
FOR
COUNCIL AGENDA
CA12-002**

1. Agenda Item Number:
17
2. Council Meeting Date
September 22, 2011

TO: MAYOR & COUNCIL

3. Date Prepared: August 24, 2011

THROUGH: CITY MANAGER

4. Requesting Departments: Community Services

5. SUBJECT: Award a construction contract to Whiting-Turner Contracting Company for Sunset Library Renovations, Project No. LI1002-401, in an amount not to exceed \$544,000.00.

6. RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that Council award a construction contract to Whiting-Turner Contracting Company for Sunset Library Renovations, Project No. LI1002-401, in an amount not to exceed \$544,000.00.

7. BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: Sunset Library is located on the northeast corner of Ray and Rural roads. The Library is over ten years old and averages more than 1,000 visitors daily. The condition of the interior space of the building is reflective of the high intensity use by the community. This construction will update carpet, furnishings, and equipment. Early Learning Centers will be incorporated into the space, providing parents and preschoolers with interactive educational modules that will increase their children's pre-literacy skills and enhance their school readiness. A dedicated space for teens and pre-teens has been provided to promote a positive experience to engage them in information and computer literacy activities. There is also a dedicated computer lab as well as a computer commons space designed for citizens who need access to PCs and the internet. During a public meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2011, interested patrons in attendance supported the concept of closing the library to allow for a shortened construction schedule. The architect's estimate was that closing the library would shorten construction time by five (5) weeks and save \$30,000 to \$50,000. Based on the patrons' support of the shorter construction schedule, an addendum was issued during the bid process that called for the bids to be based on the library being closed from December 17, 2011 through January 2, 2012. That time frame coincides with the Kyrene School District's winter break.

8. EVALUATION: On August 30, 2011 fifteen (15) bids were received and fourteen (14) bids were opened on August 31, 2011. The bid results were as follows:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Bid</u>		
Whiting-Turner Contracting Company	\$544,000.00	Mattson Construction	\$788,368.00
Bloom Builders	\$598,419.00	Sky Engineering	Withdrew
JE Bowen Construction	\$627,179.32	Edge Construction	Non-responsive
Pimmex Contracting	\$643,468.00	LW French	Non-responsive
SD Crane Builders	\$661,356.00	Norquay	Non-responsive
Redden Construction	\$685,641.00	RJM Construction	Non-responsive
Woodruff Construction	\$703,734.66	Builders Guild	Non-responsive
Concord	\$727,333.00		

The engineer's estimate was \$721,983. The construction contract time is based on 130 calendar days for final completion.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Cost: \$544,000.00
Savings: N/A
Long Term Costs: N/A
Fund Source:

<u>Acct. No.:</u>	<u>Fund Name:</u>	<u>Program Name:</u>	<u>CIP Funded:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
430.4320.6210.10LI556	Library Bond	Sunset Library Acq.	FY09/10	\$544,000.00

PROPOSED MOTION: Move that Council award a construction contract to Whiting-Turner Contracting Company for Sunset Library Renovations, Project No. LI1002-401, in an amount not to exceed \$544,000.00.

ATTACHMENTS: Location Map

APPROVALS

11. Requesting Department
Brenda Brown
Brenda Brown, Library Manager

13. Community Services Director
Mark M. Eynatten
Mark M. Eynatten, Community Services Director

12. City Engineer
Sheina Hughes
Sheina Hughes, City Engineer

14. City Manager
Rich Dlugas
Rich Dlugas