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## UPDATE ON STRATEGIC FACILITIES PLAN

We are currently in the information-gathering phase of our Strategic Facilities Plan, prioritizing a "listening first" approach with our staff, the Board, and our community. This ensures our future roadmap is built on a solid foundation of real-world needs.

Following the presentation to the Finance Committee on February 17, **Amy Schmieding and Magda Hebal from Woolpert have been meeting weekly with Alexandra Skinner, Billy Treece, Matt Bartodziej, and me**, to keep the project on schedule and allow for real-time collaboration.

To understand how our building functions day-to-day, **the Woolpert team has engaged with our internal stakeholders through 1) in-person meetings with each library department** to discuss current space needs, service aspirations, and feedback on the physical building; **and 2) surveys of both staff and the Library Board**, covering similar prompts. These activities have ensured that everyone has had a formal opportunity to share what they need from our physical space to better serve the community and support staff in the years to come.

**As we head into May, our focus shifts to public input. We have drafted a community survey that will run from early May through mid-June.** To ensure broad reach, we are promoting the survey through OPFYI and all seven of our monthly e-newsletters. We are also currently discussing paper survey options to ensure technology isn't a barrier for anyone who wants to participate.

**Additionally, we are planning the following face-to-face engagement opportunities:**

- **A Day in Our Village:** Amy and Magda will be stationed in the library lobby during this event to chat with residents and gather feedback in person.
- **Focus Groups:** We are in the early stages of planning community focus groups and will share more details as those conversations take shape.

**Transparency and intentionality are top priorities during this process.** We are doing the necessary work now to establish a clear, long-term vision for our facilities, and community input is critical.

**It is also important to note that we are not seeking additional funding at this point.** By investing in a strategic facilities plan now, we ensure that every future improvement to the building is intentional, fiscally responsible, and reflects what our community needs.

Lastly, **we are taking intentional care as we plan our public-facing communications to ensure all project messaging is clear, accessible, and inclusive.** It is a priority for us that every resident understands the scope of this work and feels invited to participate. Communication will include information about our choice to work with Woolpert (as the successors to the building's original architects, Woolpert will provide continuity and bring both institutional knowledge and familiarity with Oak Park) and how interested parties can learn more about the planning process.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elsworth Carman, Executive Director



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