From: Evelyn Funk
To: Luke Chapman
Subject: Winskill Renewal Project
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I recently attended the open house at the Field House on Saturday, March 15th, where I explored the virtual proposal. I found many aspects of the plan exciting; however, I want to express my strong opposition to the suggestion of including the Tsawwassen Library in the Winskill project.

One of the display panels, titled “Step 9: Other Features,” contained ten post-it notes advocating for the library’s inclusion in this project. After speaking with City staff at the event, I feel compelled to formally state my concerns.

First and foremost, the suggestion to relocate the library to Winskill seems driven by opposition to the 24-story tower proposal, rather than by a thoughtful consideration of the best location for the library. While objections to the towers are understandable, conflating that debate with the library’s future risks compromising the community’s long-term interests.

Moreover, the Winskill Renewal Project already has a well-defined scope. Introducing a significant change—such as incorporating a library—at this stage is impractical and ill-conceived. Winskill’s location at the southern edge of Tsawwassen is far from ideal for a library, which should serve as a central hub for the community. This issue was already settled when a previous proposal to move the library to Winskill was put to a plebiscite and overwhelmingly rejected.

Past experience reinforces this point. When the Tsawwassen Library was housed in the Longhouse near the South Delta Recreation Centre at the northern edge of town, it failed to fulfill its role as a true community resource. Its location did not provide the accessibility or central presence that a public library requires.

We are aware that Century Group has proposed a new library as part of the Tsawwassen Town Centre renewal. Their extensive research has ensured that this new facility would not only meet the community’s current needs but also serve future generations. While alternative locations have been casually suggested—including repurposing a former community police office—these proposals lack the vision and strategic planning necessary for a well-integrated, long-term solution.

The City has a responsibility to lead this conversation with clear principles that support cohesive development. The original Century Group proposal, which positioned the library at the heart of the mall with surrounding space, was far superior to the revised version placing it directly on 56th Street—a change reportedly made at the City’s request. I urge City staff to work closely with Century’s well-informed team to understand the rationale behind the original placement. Their research underscores the importance of a centrally located library, and I believe those insights should guide the City’s decisions.

A centrally positioned library is essential to the vitality of our community. Winskill is not the right location, and I strongly urge the City to remain committed to a Town Centre location that truly serves Tsawwassen residents.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Funk
President, Delta Friends of the Library