



MEMORANDUM

To: All Alders, Library Board Members, Library Foundation Board Members
From: Theodore C. Widder, III, Library Board President
Date: May 26, 2010
Re: Central Library Project

A selection of the architectural firm to design a "reimagined" Central Library has been selected after a lengthy and thorough process. The firm is Meyer, Scherer and Rockcastle (<http://www.msrltd.com>) headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The firm is partnered locally with the Potter Lawson Firm (<http://www.potterlawson.com>) in Madison.

The firm was selected out of an initial submission of eleven (11) firms who responded to the RFQ issued by the City late last year and subsequently twice amended as the Central Library project morphed to its current configuration.

The initial eleven (11) firms were scored and the scoring emphasized (a) significant library design experience (b) experience in dealing with urban, multiple-story structures and (c) experience in sustainable design. Five (5) finalists were interviewed and were rescored following a final amendment to the RFQ which asked for experience dealing with renovation and rebuilding of urban structures.

The principal designer with whom we will be working-Jeff Scherer-has extensive library design experience and brings great knowledge and enthusiasm to this significant project. We are currently seeking to schedule an introduction to the community for Jeff Scherer and his firm on June 7, 2010, so that all policy makers and other community stakeholders will have an opportunity to meet him and his associates and to see some of their prior work.

In order to keep the process moving along the ambitious time schedule we hope to keep, a resolution authorizing the hiring of Meyer, Scherer, and Rockcastle will be introduced to the Common Council on June 1, 2010.

I would be happy to answer any questions.