

7260 News, Winter 2000

Beverly Glen and Santa Monica Blvd. Placed on Short List for New Library

The vacant lot on the southwest corner of Beverly Glen and Santa Monica is one of three sites being considered by the Los Angeles Public Library for a new branch library.

The other possible sites for the new library are in a parking lot near Wellworth and Glendon and the vacant lot, which sometimes doubles as a pumpkin patch, on the southeast corner of Wilshire and Comstock.

12,500 Square Feet

Fontayne Holmes, Director of Library Facilities for the LAPL, says that the new library, wherever it is built, should come in at about 12,500 square feet, about the size of the West L. A. regional branch library on Santa Monica Blvd. and Purdue Ave.

At earliest, the new library to be built with funds from the 1998 library bond proposition, could open its doors three years from now.

Up to 100,000 Books

The library will house 50,000 books including separate children's, teenager, and adult collections. The collection eventually could reach 100,000 books. (The entire city library contains six million books and 2.5 million photos.)

Holmes says the library will be state-of-the-art. Its thirty-two computers will be able to access the library's on-line catalogue of all its collections, its data bases, and the internet.

Conduits will be built into every section of the library to make possible easy installation of state-of-the-art information technology.

Community Room

The library will include a large community room, which could be used by local organizations when the library is closed and sometimes when it is open.

Teleconferencing facilities will be available in the community room. Computer and other classes are likely to be held there.

Space will be provided for a special story-telling area for children. Holmes plans to hold meetings soon with representatives of Westwood area community organizations including Tract No. 7260. At the meetings the LAPL would try to learn how the community feels about the proposed sites and what special needs the library should fill.

She also said that once the library site is chosen, the community would be asked to work closely with library planners in choosing the library's architect and in anticipating and in solving any problems-that might arise.

Holmes said that each of the three proposed sites has its problems. As for the one closest to Tract No. 7260, she named the following concerns: vehicular ingress and egress, the size of setbacks, and the need to buy the adjacent occupied property. Wherever the library ends up, it must provide a parking lot that meets code requirements.

In the meantime, the LAPL this year will tear down the Palms/Rancho Park library and replace it with a two story 11,000 square foot branch.