

Thoughts to Incorporate into July Report Out to City Council

- Is this Commons idea a public/private partnership, or private effort?
- What is a public/private partnership?
- What are the risks and benefits to the City?
- What are the risks and benefits to the Community?
- How much of Alex's time will it take to research and answer these questions in writing? To present to the Committee? To a joint meeting with the Council at an upcoming council meeting?
Who owns the real property? The Building? Who manages the space? Are they a paid employee?
- How are rents determined? Is there a reduced non-profit rate?
- Who are the sources of money (with more detail than the SWOT analysis)?
- What work/effort/expense will the SASC/SCCC/LIB do? Capital campaign? Fund-raising?
- When is it time to engage with Sup. Hopkins?
- Should we repurpose the Needs Assessment Sub-Com to a "Next Steps" Steering Com?
- What type of additional outreach should be done? How can you do outreach now without a more specific concept or illustrated proposal?
- Additional questions specifically about a private/public partnership would be the following:

Strategic Alignment

- How does this project align with public priorities and community needs?
- What shared goals exist between public entities and private partners?
- What outcomes (economic, social, educational) are mutually beneficial?
- Does the project advance equity, access, or sustainability goals?

Funding Structure

- What mix of funding sources is possible (grants, bonds, philanthropy, corporate sponsorships, impact investment)?
- What portion should be publicly funded vs. privately funded?
- Are there opportunities for matching funds or leveraging public dollars to attract private capital?
- What are the short-term vs. long-term funding commitments required?

Partnership Design

- Who are the most appropriate private-sector partners (local businesses, foundations, developers, investors)?
- What incentives can be offered to private partners (tax credits, recognition, revenue-sharing)?
- What roles and responsibilities will each partner take?
- How will decision-making authority be shared or governed?

Risk & Accountability

- How are financial and operational risks distributed between public and private partners?
- What safeguards ensure accountability and transparency?
- What happens if a partner withdraws or fails to meet obligations?
- How will conflicts of interest be prevented or managed?

Financial Viability & Return

- What is the projected return on investment (ROI)—financial and/or social?
- Are there revenue streams (fees, leases, services) that can sustain the project?
- How will ongoing maintenance and operational costs be covered?
- What financial metrics will define success?

Legal & Regulatory Considerations

- What legal frameworks govern public–private partnerships (PPP/P3) in this jurisdiction?
- Are there procurement or bidding requirements?
- What zoning, land-use, or compliance issues must be addressed?
- Are there restrictions tied to public funds or grants?

Community Impact & Engagement

- How will community input be incorporated into planning and implementation?
- Who benefits most from the project—and who might be underserved?
- How will access remain equitable if private funding is involved?
- What public concerns need to be addressed early?

Visibility & Reputation

- What branding or recognition will private partners receive?

- How might partnerships affect public perception or trust?
- Are there reputational risks associated with any potential partner?
- How will success stories be communicated to stakeholders?

Implementation & Timeline

- What is the realistic timeline for securing funding and launching the project?
- Are there phased funding opportunities?
- What milestones trigger additional funding or investment?
- How flexible is the plan if timelines shift?

Evaluation & Sustainability

- How will the partnership be evaluated over time?
- What data will be collected to measure outcomes and impact?
- Is there a long-term sustainability plan beyond initial funding?
- Can the partnership scale or be replicated elsewhere?

Additional Library-Specific Questions:

- How can private funding enhance—without commercializing—library services?
- Are there opportunities for tech partnerships (digital access, makerspaces)?
- Can local businesses sponsor programs without influencing content?
- How can donor contributions be structured to protect intellectual freedoms

Other

- What does the City have in mind in reference to Lynda's EIFD process.
(Understanding is that Council members Hinton and Carter to not have meetings lined up. Lynda was on the list of 30 to be interviewed, but she was not.)
- We believe that the only viable funding mechanisms are limited to an EIFD and a public/private partnership.