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County to remodel, expand Centennial Library

By Peter Bodley Aug 2, 2018

The Anoka County Board awarded a contract July 24 for a project to remodel and build an addition to the Centennial Library in Circle Pines.

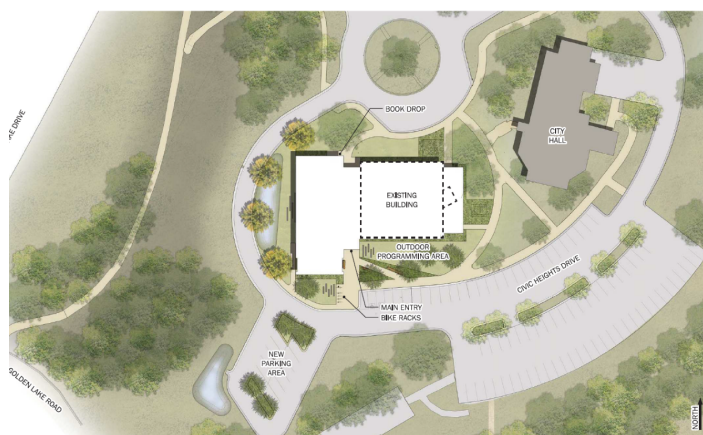
Kue Contractors Inc., of Watkins, was the low bidder at a little over \$4.2 million, which includes the base bid, plus \$24,500 to add a fireplace.

The County Board, with support from the Anoka County Library Board, began the process of developing project plans in March 2017 by approving an architectural services agreement with Leo A. Daly Companies and a construction management services agreement with ICS Consulting.

Final design was approved by the Library Board and the County Board's Finance and Capital Improvements Committee in May, and bids were ordered.

The project will more than double the size of the library from the present 6,300 square feet to some 13,000 square feet, according to Maggie Snow, county library director.

To accommodate the addition, the county has acquired 10 square feet of adjacent property from the city of Circle Pines for \$1, Snow said.



The Centennial Library remodeling and expansion project in Circle Pines will include construction of additions on either side of the existing building to more than double the present space. Construction will start in September following Anoka County Board action July 24 to award a contract.

Rendering courtesy of Anoka County Library

The library will be closed during construction, which is expected to start in September, until the summer of 2019, she said.

The last day of business will be Saturday, Aug. 25, while a closing ceremony will take place Friday, Aug. 24, at noon, Snow said.

Additions will be built on both sides of the existing library, according to Snow.

"Reoriented to meet increasing demands for flexible spaces, the new environment will reflect the evolving nature of 21st century libraries," Snow said.

"It will include dynamic and high-tech elements and collaborative and creative spaces for groups to work together in a variety of configurations."

New amenities will include a large meeting room, three smaller conference rooms and a demonstration kitchen-maker space, Snow said.

Book collections and other materials will be "right sized" for the services offered, she said.

"We are responding to changes in culture and technology that affect how we gather, learn and play," Snow said. "These improved spaces will enhance our ability to deliver better experiences for visitors of all ages."

According to Snow, the current library opened in November 1985, and in 2017 it had more than 87,000 visits, circulated more than 238,864 items and hosted more than 6,600 people at classes and events.

"This project has been a long time in the making," Snow said.

The library is part of a civic campus that now includes Circle Pines City Hall, a playground, community gardens and connections to biking and walking trails that lead to Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park, she said.

The project, which is included in the County Board's 2018 capital improvements program budget, will be paid for through the sale of bonds, according to Cory Kampf, county finance and central services division manager.

In March, the County Board adopted a resolution declaring its intent to bond for up to \$5.4 million for the project.

The bond sale will likely take place in October with a final decision whether to use library bonds or county general obligation capital improvement bonds to be discussed by the finance and central services committee at its August meeting, Kampf said.