

HAMLIN MIDWAY LIBRARY SIGN LIGHTING AND LANDSCAPING

Project Importance

Provides lighting for the new sign which will not be visible at night without it

There is a long standing tradition of providing outdoor programming and activities at the Hamline Midway Library, and inadequate investment by the city has reduced the ability of the community to continue this tradition

Increased library use has created the need for additional programming space which can be partially addressed by holding more functions outdoors during nice weather if outdoor space is improved

New programming opportunities are possible with carefully designed outdoor space that meets the need for adequate seating, outdoor power source for the sound system, and sustainable landscape design

Lighting for the book drop will improve functionality by allowing patrons to see when returning books at night when the library is closed

Safety Concerns

The book drop area is unsafe at night due to its location in a dark corner with no lighting

Using the new sound system purchased by the Hamline Midway Library Association requires snaking extension cords down the front steps which is a safety hazard during heavily attended public events

The new sign will not be visible at night without lighting which fails to meet the standard met at other branch libraries in the St. Paul Public Library system

Entrance lighting is dim and needs to be brightened for improved nighttime visibility, especially with the recent relocating of the district council office to the lower level of the library

Demonstrated Commitment

People expect to be able to see signs, entrances and the book drop clearly at night and funding is necessary to correct these conditions for library patrons

Ramsey County Watershed District is conducting a site visit on April 8 to develop sustainable landscaping features in preparation for the grant application to be submitted in the next RCWD cycle

In the early 1990's, landscaping sign and lighting improvements were part of a funded CIB proposal that were cut from the project so CIB money could fund more projects

The Hamline Midway Library garden group has been planting and maintaining garden beds at the library for 20 years with help from the Hamline Midway Environment Group and a Master Gardener

This proposal has the support of the District 10 Community Council

Community Benefit

The entire area significantly benefits from improvements to the library, particularly since people come from many neighborhoods for programming unique to the Hamline Midway branch

Safety and accessibility will be improved by providing lighting for the sign, book drop area and improving the lighting for the entrances, particularly since community meetings of the district council are held in the evenings at this location and most book drop use is at night

Livability and property values of the surrounding area are improved by having an attractive library with vibrant programming nearby and many residents purchased their homes specifically because the library is within walking distance or a short bike ride away

The library association will be able to hold outdoor programming and fund raising events using their new sound system safely with the addition of exterior outlets

Aesthetic appearance of this treasured community asset will be enhanced with landscaping, public art, lighting, and design features to mitigate the stark appearance of the new sign

Long Range Impact

Partnerships with the watershed district and area garden centers have the potential to contribute funding or in kind donations to the landscaping portion of this project

Operating costs of lighting will be less for the entrances when replaced with more energy efficient lighting and lighting for the sign and book drop area will be energy efficient as part of the design

Landscaping has been provided for many years with volunteers which has saved and will continue to save money in operating costs for maintenance of garden beds

Environmental sustainability will be addressed as part of the landscape design process with the watershed district and will exceed standards

Because this is the branch library with the most patrons accessing it by walking, healthy lifestyles are promoted for citizens which supports the healthy lifestyles objectives that are part of the Comprehensive Plan

Mitigating the harshness of the new sign with landscaping and design of the grounds will help it to fit in better with the historic architecture of the library building

The garden group at this library has a 20 year history of developing, planting and maintaining landscaping and has only been limited by lack of funds to develop and implement a complete plan