



Rosemount Expansion and Development Group (READ)

 @ReadRosemount

 Read Rosemount

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 6, 2017

Ottawa Public Library Board and Staff Fail to Commit to Rosemount Expansion Why is Rosemount being left behind?

Ottawa, ON: Yesterday, the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) released the [Business Case Report](#) and its own related [staff report](#) on the future of the Rosemount library. The business case considers options to renovate the current branch, build a new branch at a nearby location, or lease space for a new branch.

Both the Business Case and the OPL Staff Report recommend rehabilitating the existing building (ensuring code compliance, upgrading interiors, and changing the exterior entry). On Tuesday October 10th, 2017, the OPL Board will consider the Business Case.

“READ is very disappointed with the report,” said READ Chair Josh Nutt upon reviewing them. “Rosemount has the highest circulation in the city relative to its size which suggests that Rosemount is always busy. Our community is underserved relative to other areas of the city. Rosemount lacks many of the basic amenities that are available at other branch libraries. Unfortunately, the OPL’s approach to this project lacks long-term vision. Our neighbourhood is growing and intensifying. The OPL has a unique opportunity to think creatively and deliver a new Rosemount library that will serve our community for decades to come. If the OPL’s current plan goes through, we will continue to be underserved for another 30 years. The OPL and the city should commit to a plan that will lead to a new Rosemount library that meets the community’s current and future needs.”

READ volunteers will be out in full force on Tuesday October 10th, 2017 at 5:00 pm to make their voices heard at the OPL Board meeting. READ volunteers have compiled data that demonstrates that the community is vastly underserved by the current library, especially relative to branches in similar Ottawa communities. Rosemount has few computers, no bookable meeting rooms, and far less study space than comparable branches. Residents are paying higher taxes following recent tax assessments in the Kitchissippi Ward. Despite this increased revenue for the city, the commitment to build a library that meets the needs of the taxpayers in this community is sadly lacking. The problem will only worsen with intensification in the urban core.

About READ: READ was formed in 2015 by concerned residents and library users who agreed that the community deserved a modernized library that would serve its needs for decades to come. READ has the support of hundreds of our neighbours and 10 community associations. READ supports the redevelopment of the Rosemount Library at a new location. READ wants a well-designed, welcoming, efficient, and effective space that continues and expands Rosemount’s role as a community hub and gathering place.

OPL Board Meeting Details:

Tuesday October 10th, 2017 5:00 pm Champlain Room, Ottawa City Hall 110 Laurier Ave W.

Contact: Josh Nutt, Chair

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www.readrosemount.ca | readrosemount@gmail.com

Attached: Rosemount Background Statistics