

Summary of Findings

Rosemount Library: The Next Chapter (2016)

Community Consultation

July 2016

An in-depth community consultation took place in March and April 2016 for the purpose of learning what the community wants for the future of Rosemount Library, a branch of the Ottawa Public Library. The consultations led to a final report on the findings, *Rosemount Library: The Next Chapter (2016)* released July 7, 2016. The in-person sessions were very well attended by 150 people and used activity-based collaborative discussions to develop a sense of priorities from among the many ideas put forward. An online questionnaire was also well-used by participants 50 people who couldn't attend in person and in-person surveys were conducted at the Parkdale Food Centre.

The discussions were based around **three possible scenarios**:

- A renovation of the current structure
- An expansion of the of the current structure
- A move to a new location

Renovation

Ideas put forward for an ideal renovation of the current space included but were not limited to:

- Better configuration of both floors to more efficiently use the space
- Providing for more accessible browsing between tight shelves
- Providing more space for activities such as individual work space, group study space, comfortable reading space for all users
- Increasing parking for bikes and strollers
- Improving washroom space
- Increasing natural light

Participants expressed that the **priorities** among the renovation ideas to be:

- More space and efficient multi-use space
- Maintaining historical significance
- Consolidating the children's area
- A more accessible entrance/lobby

- More outlets for laptops
- More programming possibly some through collaboration with other community organizations in the area.

Expansion

Participants were provided with expansion feasibility studies conducted by Architecture49 and felt that the ideas below should be further researched.

Discussing how the square footage of the current building could be expanded, participants **prioritized:**

- Replacing the 1930s west-side addition with a three story structure
- An upper level side-supported expansion to the south
- Making the entrance/lobby larger
- Building a mezzanine level similar to the Festival House

Participants continued to **emphasize the importance of:**

- Increasing the useable space and providing multi-use space
- Making a sustainable environmental impact
- The historical significance of the last Carnegie library to be built in Ottawa

New location

Participants were open to the idea of moving to a new location, on certain conditions including but not limited to:

- Greatly increased useable space to meet the community's current and future needs
- Being very close to the current location and central to the catchment area
- Proximity to bus lines, foot and bike traffic on Wellington, as well as schools and demographics in need

Funding

The option of supplementing the existing funding for Rosemount Library redevelopment with a local levy was largely rejected, especially by participants attending the in-person sessions.

In Summary

The full report helps to further explain how members of the public envision ways that the next chapter of the Rosemount Library could unfold. The Ottawa Public Library, elected representatives and the community are now equipped with information and knowledge to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Rosemount Library and beyond.