

**Town of Atherton**  
**Community Workshop on New Library**  
**Thursday, March 22, 2012**  
**Pavilion in Hollbrook – Palmer Park**  
**150 Watkins Ave**  
**7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**NOTES prepared by PCRC**

City Council woman Kathy McKeithen welcomed the participants and provided information about the background of the Library Steering Committee, including their scope of work and the advisory committee to the council.

Shauna Wilson Mora from the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center reviewed the agenda for the meeting and some group participation agreements. She introduced Denise Kupperman, the Library Committee Chair, who set the context of the meeting as well as background on the previous 3 meetings held in the past. She also discussed the upcoming Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the fact that it will include the various potential sites for the library. The EIR will be available to download from the Town of Atherton website.

Shauna introduced Carine Risley, Manager of the Atherton and Brisbane Libraries. Carine gave a brief presentation on the Library and interest in public input on the new library for Atherton.

David Schellinger, from lowercase productions, introduced a video referencing two new libraries on the Peninsula; the Millbrae and San Bruno (?) public libraries. David then talked about the purpose of the “New Atherton Library Community Resources” survey and asked participants to complete the questionnaire about the types of spaces, collections, programs and library design they would like to see in a new Atherton Public Library.

David then provided context about the library visioning charette activity and shared some of the charette’s created during previous meetings. The participants created 2 groups and each group created a collage of their collaborative ideas for the potential new library. Each group shared their collages and reported highlights from their exercise as well as questions that may have come up for them during the activity.

**First Comment/Question**

Atherton Library square feet?

- 13,500 max—if community wants more would need referendum

**Group 1**

- Historical aspect / brings in beauty / elegance with lots of light / solarium

- Coffee shop incorporated—maybe outdoor seating; bringing people together
- Comfortable spaces / feels like a living room
- Flexibility / spaces defined by bookshelves
- Redwood furniture—maybe also in outdoor seating
- Bright areas and subdued spaces. Take into consideration age appropriate spaces. Have some private spaces
- Maybe fire pits outside
- Spanish language books
- Beauty / tradition / flexible space
- Photocopiers available—low cost

## **Group 2**

- E-books—direction of future
- Traffic and parking concerns—have enough parking
- Lighting is important
- Comfortable chairs for relaxing
- No designated outdoor space associated specifically with library
- Computers situated so people could share ideas
- Will share these collages with architect

Shauna opened the meeting for further questions and comments.

## **Second Question and Comment Session**

- Would like library at edge of park—not middle—not taking up open space
- Technology should be able to be checked out
- Books on tape important
- CD, DVD technology lab—training / workshops on how to transfer data
- Movie nights for kids
- Space for presentations
- Space for events
- Defined space for kids
- Cushions / smaller scale computers / chairs, etc.
- Are the questionnaires available for other community members who have not attended a meeting to complete?
  - Questionnaires are available at the current Library for community members to access and complete.

## **Denise and David discussed the next steps:**

- Summarize questionnaire
- Put questionnaire on website
- Share boards with architect
- Draft of EIR will be available 3/23/12 at noon—45 day comment period
- To council in June
- Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of month of Library Steering Committee

Denise thanked everyone for their participation and feedback and said the information collected would be reviewed by the Library Steering Committee and assembled into a report to City Council.