

**Town of Atherton**  
**Community Workshop on New Library**  
**Saturday, February 25, 2012**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**91 Ashfield Road**  
**10:00 – 12:00 PM**

Atherton Library Public Comments:

- Father looking forward to new library. Hope to get on with it
- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) Granddaughter loves to read. Needs quite space without distraction
- Nature lover, would like patio with shade
- Need seating that elders can get out of
- Like existing library in it's current location, easy access for children
- Upgrade library where it is
- Plenty of parking in current library location
- There is enough room to enlarge current library
- Need to survey library users to get input from more people. Consider Survey Monkey
- What is the best practice? Look at other libraries. Learn from others in similar types of towns
- Challenge work done to select the park site. Assignment as service area, for example, Menlo Oaks. None of these areas is closer to us than to the Menlo Park Library
- Is large library needed?
- Think committee pre-selected the park site
- Question the rigor of the feasibility study
- Need to reevaluate
- Current Atherton Library has no space for small children
- Love idea of library in park. Sounds glorious. Like place for kids to run outside
- Want spaces accommodating to small children and teen spaces
- Space to focus on business for a couple of hours. Place to work on business plan away from my kids
- Love San Carlos Library
- Concerned that "Friends of the Library" were listed as supporting a new library at the park site. As a "Friend of the Library" she does not support new library in the park
- Like to see more technology in library
- Recommend reading Steve Jobs biography for insights into technology and the future
- Have iPads in the Library

- Asked local elementary school parents if they use Atherton Library. Overwhelming they said they did. Too much traffic to go to Menlo Park Library
- People in charge won't listen. Like Iraq, they need to listen
- Important to assume goodwill. Let's not talk about "them", "they". Volunteers have put in their time. Let's respect that
- Location has been discussed for at least a year. Came before Council at least 3 times
- Let's get better data if there is better data.
- Wish people would listen to other views, not just give their own
- Where I grew up, the library was a safe place to get away. It was next to a park
- Kids/families who come to libraries are not looking to make a "hit." Not dangerous people
- Libraries offer benefits that stay with people all their lives. Mutual gift giving. Bought complete set of Shakespeare at a library for only \$1.75.
- Have faith in people to do their job. Elected officials and committees
- Something wrong if our kids are incapable of getting to the park
- Will love the library wherever it is
- Have been lots of meetings / discussions on this topic
- People from anywhere should be welcome. A Library is a public space
- Oppose move to park. We'll evolve to a community center, administrative center
- Upgrade library where it is
- Disturbing to think one voice is worth more than another based on how long you've lived here. New comers care as much and want to feel included
- Objective to make it best library it can be. It will outlast us. What we want in it will affect where it will be. Will be a legacy
- Need flexibility. Can't imagine the technical changes in future. Set aside funds for making changes in future. Endowment for renovations
- Do a survey in the library service area - do they use/will they use the library
- Have felt library inadequate since moving here 32 years ago. Use Menlo Park library. Looking forward to new library in Atherton
- Important to do full town survey
- Would like library committee to send out explanation of their process. Get comments
- Residents must take responsibility to be informed and respond
- Project seems under the table/secretive. Needed to be much more open - more community involvement
- There have been more meetings on the library than on many other projects
- Please don't get personal. Meetings have been public and publicized
- Have there been any private meetings in violation of the Brown Act?
- Subcommittees meet usually in library or town hall. Meetings are public. There are not private meetings.
- Committee has no ill will
- Meeting off track - not accomplishing purpose
- Let mayor know - need to defer public comment on location so can stick to visioning process