

Creek Consulting conducted a public engagement meeting for the Clearview Library District on Jan 24th, 2019. Below is our analysis, for the Clearview Library District, on the participant's input.

Opposing/Supporting Reasons

In the Opposition section, the data shows that people ranked Taxes, Purchasing Property Beforehand, Branches, and Other Priorities on average higher than information and outreach. The **location of the property and safety concerns** was the highest ranked opposing reasoning on average. Branches and Communication often went hand in hand. Trust was high in the participants who stated ranked Taxes, Purchasing Property Beforehand, Branches, and Other Priorities high as well.

In the Support Section the data shows a more equal average of how people ranked the items, but space for books and a computer lab were the highest average rank. Many participants at the event were against 6C and skewed the results that way in this section, people who opposed the 6C had low support for everything but books and a computer lab.

Post Event Survey

Looking over the responses on the post the event survey, everyone loved the facilitated discussions. I was curious to see if anyone would comment that they felt uncomfortable with the library facilitating the table discussions, but not one person wrote it down. Besides one participant, everyone had a positive view at the end of the event.

The main thing that people thought that could have been improved was that they desired more people attending. Participants also commented that they wanted even more time for discussion. Communication was mentioned as being one of the most important things that the public wanted Creek to take away from the event.

Worksheet Responses

With people who opposed 6C, there is distinct differences between who this contingency represents. There are 3 factions. One is a faction of policy disagreement. These people opposed 6C not because they oppose the library, but because they wanted the library district to go in a different direction. This is mainly from the location and the desire for branches. Another faction is of anti-tax. This faction did not like the idea of raising taxes, and/or they expressed a desire to fund other items before the district. They are not necessarily opposed to the library but are opposed to high taxes. The third faction is one of distrust in the district. This faction does not trust the board or the library and often discussed Drag Queen story night.

People understood that taxes were indeed a sore subject for the community; however, participants also agreed that growth and space were big concerns that needed to be addressed.

FAQ's

Katie Van Meter sent over a list of Frequently Asked Questions at her table, and I expanded it to include common questions that occurred in the other discussions as well.

- What percentage of the new library was designated for books?
- What population checks out books?
- Was the plan to move the books to the new location?
- Why can't the library partner with the Recreation Center for rooms?
- When are the majority of library programs held?
- Could the current building be expanded?
- When was the land purchased? Why?
- Is there room in the budget (currently) to lease/rent space?
- Why are there so many conference rooms/meeting spaces in the new building?
- Is there a pipe on the land that needs to be moved?
- Was land offered to the library by developers?
- Why isn't this location large enough to support branches?
- Could land be bought from the school district to expand? If so, would an expansion be possible?
- Could there be an option to lease space instead of buying land?
- How does the school system interact with the district library, is there a way to combine resources?
- What will happen to the new property now that 6C has failed?

Table Notes

There is overwhelming evidence that participants didn't understand some of the decisions that the library, and its board, made. Every table brought up questions with why the library hasn't pursued opening up branches, as well as why the property was bought beforehand. Regarding the topic of the location of the proposed library, there seems to be some tension between residents of Windsor who are close to the library and those who live in Severance and West Greeley. Excluding safety concerns with being located on the highway, people outside of Windsor like that it was a central location for them. Residents of the district in Windsor voiced a lot of opposition to the change of location.

More than one table mentioned how libraries should not be places where there are essentially babysitters for children. This was mentioned in some of the worksheet responses as well.

Final Analysis

Participants didn't understand why certain decisions were made. Creek Consulting believes that there is a growing rift of mistrust between the district and those who feel like the library does not represent them and/or are listening to them. Participants from both sides of the 6C debate loved the fact that the district was organizing this outreach. However the district decides to process, Creek Consulting advises them to continue to pursue efforts such as the Jan 24th meeting to provide opportunities for the public to engage with the library.