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Washington-Centerville Library

CONTACT: Georgia Mergler

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TELEPHONE: 433-8091

FAX: 610-4455

EMAIL: gmergler@wcpl.lib.oh.us

Another Public Input Opportunity for Woodbourne Library Expansion

Input from an online survey, a public forum and a series of focus groups uncovered several important themes for the expansion of Woodbourne Library, according to officials at Washington-Centerville Public Library. On January 21st, 6 PM at Woodbourne Library, the Library will host yet another public forum in which architect LWC Inc. will present schematic drawings that reflect the five themes citizens ranked highest for the upcoming expansion project. The themes are:

1. **Warm and relaxing environment** – Maintain the warm intimacy of the current facility. Improve lighting and add more comfortable seating.
2. **Separate quiet and active areas** – Create ‘zones’ that provide distinct spaces for those who want focused, quiet work areas and those who want collaborative work and social spaces.
3. **Improved service points** – Improve locations and arrangement of service points and self service areas.
4. **Expanded and flexible meeting spaces** – Host more programs at Woodbourne Library and offer more spaces for community meetings, via expanded meeting spaces.
5. **Creative space** – Add creative space for use by all ages.

This input informed the creation of the building program, which outlines how to best utilize the existing Woodbourne Library, as well as the planned 10,000 square foot

addition. The public will get to see the resulting drawings derived from citizen input at the public forum.

More than 1,000 library cardholders and local citizens responded to the invitation to tell the library board of trustees what was most important in the upcoming expansion project. "From the beginning of this process, input from citizens and staff has been a critical priority for the Library Board and we were very pleased with the response to the survey and focus groups," said Bob Hanseman, President of the Library Board of Trustees. Library consultants, Kimberly Bolan & Associates, say the response was unprecedented in their work with library systems across the country. "The response just confirms how invested the community is in our library system," says Mr. Hanseman.

The project, which is estimated to cost between \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000, will come from existing Library operating and building funds. No new money will be requested from local citizens to fund the construction and renovation. Construction is slated to begin in 2017.

For more information on the Woodbourne Library expansion project, visit www.wclibrary.info/news. For information on Washington-Centerville Public Library, contact the library at 433-8091 or visit www.wclibrary.info.

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