

THE NEWS *of* ORANGE COUNTY

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At the Library: Library hears from community on proposed Southern Branch

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Despite chilly, dreary weather, more than 50 individuals came out to a library community engagement meeting on March 25 in Carrboro.

The subject of the meeting: the proposed Southern Branch Library.

Participants provided their input regarding how this new library should look and feel, what services and activities should be offered, and the benefits and challenges of locating it in downtown Carrboro. Working in groups of five, they shared their ideas through written and visual exercises.

The overwhelmingly positive comments centered on the continued need for books and access to technology. Area residents expressed the desire for comfortable, open spaces and even cats in the library. A possible downtown location was noted as an asset because the library would be accessible by car, foot, bike and bus. And it would be in close proximity to many other businesses and services.

“The feedback we heard was exactly what was expected,” OCPL Director Lucinda Munger said. “And we were so pleased with the turn-out. This library will be for everyone, and it was great to see young people and seniors—and in between—sitting side-by-side, envisioning this new library.”

Elected officials were also in attendance for the engagement meeting. Orange County Commissioners Barry Jacobs and Bernadette Pelissier, Carrboro Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Carrboro Alderman Damon Seils and former N.C. Sen. Ellie Kinnaird all participated in the meeting.

Orange County is evaluating space in the development at 300 E. Main St, in downtown Carrboro to locate the Southern Branch Library in 2017. The new library would replace the Carrboro Branch Library in McDougle Middle School and the Cybrary in the Century Center.

“Over the past 25 years our group has struggled to get a fully functioning branch of the Orange County Public Library in Carrboro,” said Nerys Levy, a long-time member of the Friends of the Library. “We are delighted to hold these conversations about our community’s dreams and desires for this new facility and its proposed site.”

The second and final community engagement meeting will be Saturday, April 12 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Carrboro Town Hall at 301 W. Main Street.

Not able to attend the meeting but want to share your ideas and thoughts?

Paper surveys are available at the Carrboro Branch Library and Cybrary.

An online survey is posted at www.orangecountync.gov/library/southernbranch.asp

Join the online conversation about the Southern Branch Library on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/OCSouthernBranchLibrary

Questions about this project can be directed to ocplsouthernbranch@orangecountync.gov