For those of you who could not attend last month's meeting, the August meeting of the Library Renewal Advisory Committee was a busy one!

In our previous meeting in June, the Committee heard updates on the Chiller Project that the Library Board was committing to in order to eliminate the need for summer chiller rentals.

At our August meeting, the bids were reviewed for the Chiller Project. The bids all came back more than double what they were estimated to be. The original architectural estimate of $450,000 was blown out of the water, with bids ranging from $750,000 (later withdrawn) to $1,388,500. The high price tag put the project out of the library's immediate financial capability. The Advisory Committee also reviewed the draft Focus Group responses and findings, and participated in a dot exercise of key concepts highlighted in the findings.

The Committee had a spirited discussion. There were several options for moving forward discussed. The options were:

1. Bonding for the chiller project
2. Bonding for a full HVAC project
3. Bonding for a full HVAC project with some programmatic improvements in the current building

The recommendations of the Committee were as follows:

1. The Committee recommended that any future bond vote should take place with the School District, if given the opportunity, in order to increase visibility and voter turnout.
2. The Committee recommended that only doing the chiller project alone, as a bonded project, did not make financial or building planning sense, given the condition of the other deteriorated and broken components of the Library's HVAC.

At the October meeting, we will continue to review and work on the Focus Group findings, and review some of the survey findings. We will continue to discuss the long range planning taking place, and there will be updates.

Hope to see you there! As always, let me know if you have any comments or questions.

Best,

Eugenia Schatoff, Pearl River Public Library Director