Survey Background

In December 2022, the Renovation Plan Survey was shared with the public in person in the library, via Facebook, and by our enewsletter which reaches over 4,000 patrons weekly. We collected responses for over 2 months.

Survey Content

The following text and update was included in the beginning of the survey:

This coming year, the Pearl River Library must launch a critical campaign to keep the library open. We will need a bond issue of $10 million to fund necessary infrastructure if we are to keep operating. This bond will allow us to renovate or replace such essential operational items as heating, air conditioning, plumbing, the roof, the windows, and the foundation. These vital renovations and replacements will also allow us to stop spending money, annually, on a rental air conditioner and ongoing stop-gap repairs to outdated systems.

In addition to the required work outlined above, based on our months of input from library users and community members, we have identified seven additional renovation projects that are key to improved library operations in the future: Adult/Teen Browsing Area, Children’s Room, Community Room, Check Out Desk/Lobby/Entrance, Learning Lab, Meeting Rooms, Restrooms. The total cost for all of these additional projects combined is $9 million. The Board recognizes that we will not be able to do all of the projects listed above.

The Library Renewal Advisory Committee believes that the Children’s Room, the Community Room and the restrooms should be included right now. But we want to hear from you.

Fixing our infrastructure and improving our budgeting will allow us to operate much more efficiently, making it possible to fund projects not included in a bond issue through a combination of grants, annual capital budgeting, and both a capital and annual fundraising campaign.

This plan has been developed based on dozens of focus groups, community input from over 1,000 survey respondents, plus the recommendations of the Library’s Board, staff, and renewal committee. Now we need your input to prioritize the additional projects outlined above.
Survey Results

Over 100 patrons responded. The findings were as follows:

- The number one priority for all surveyed is the restrooms (making them fully ADA accessible, adding family/single use bathrooms)
- The second priority is the Community Room (better use for the space, making it subdividable)
- The third priority is the Adult Area (collections, browsing, quiet study space, comfortable seating)
- The fourth priority is the Children’s Room (an imaginative, welcoming, updated area)
- The fifth priority is the Entrance/Lobby/Check Out Desk
- The sixth priority is the Learning Lab (classroom space, updated technology)
- The seventh priority are the Meeting Rooms (increasing the number, varying sizes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adult Area</th>
<th>Children's Room</th>
<th>Community Room</th>
<th>Entrance/Lobby/Check Out Desk</th>
<th>Learning Lab</th>
<th>Meeting Rooms</th>
<th>Restrooms</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Choice</td>
<td>19.60%</td>
<td>26.80%</td>
<td>12.50%</td>
<td>14.30%</td>
<td>7.10%</td>
<td>1.80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUM</td>
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<td>55.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>AVERAGE</td>
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<td>17.33%</td>
<td>18.57%</td>
<td>13.17%</td>
<td>8.37%</td>
<td>4.80%</td>
<td>19.83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public Comments

I think that the bond should be kept as low as possible to improve the probability of it being passed. The infrastructure won't make the library "pretty" but it will keep it running so much more efficiently.

It is imperative that we continue to keep in mind the community we serve and the patrons needs. We have a strong senior population that spend lots of time here and like to be heard/acknowledged and I believe we do an outstanding job at addressing their needs. In addition, I think the younger children are also a vital group we need to
capture their attention, so with that said a bathroom in the childrens room would be an excellent add on.

Whatever can be fixed next as least expensive project. I value the use of this library as a meeting place with my friends. The staff is wonderful and always accommodating.

The restrooms need to be ADA compliant, and they’re old and gross. The children’s room looks like it’s under construction and was left that way. The collection has shrunk. It’s not inviting at all. The lack of space for meetings could be lessened by reconfiguring the community room, perhaps getting dividers to create more small group space.

I think you should do what needs to be done and put it in our taxes - a town without a good library is one that is inadequate, and no one will want to live here.

Thank you and keep up the good work under less-than-ideal conditions!

Partner with our schools to teach data literacy

First and foremost the restrooms should be addressed for health and safety reasons. Then take care of the children!!!

Pearl River Library is a highlight of the town for me and my family. We visit weekly at the strong insistence of my 3 and 6 year old. They use both the children's room and play area, and are frequent attenders of all the programming. As a bilingual family I would like to see additional space for Spanish books but I also appreciate the resources available.

There seems to be a lot of space that can be better utilized to improve flow and access.

I am not in favor of any renovations to the library. I am only in favor of keeping it operational.

We use the PRPL all the time and would be lost without these services. We need the library to be taken care of!

We love the PRPL, you all do amazing work for the whole community. We hope PRPL gets all the resources it needs to keep providing high-quality programs to all PR resident.
I know the biggest question people will have is "how much is this going to cost me in taxes. etc" A clear cut statement regarding same would be a good idea.

Don't increase tax payer money!

Whatever some squeaky wheels may say, the library is a vital community resource, one of the features that makes Pearl River an attractive choice for new residents. Neglecting it to save money is penny wise and pound foolish. As such, the ways in which the library can function more as a common space fostering collective action, rather than just a book lending resource, the better. We should be encouraging and facilitating writing groups or book clubs, play groups, and space for social clubs. Broadening the mission to include a tool lending library, maker space, or fab lab would help foster broader participation from a more diverse user base.

I hope we can make and promote the library as one of the crown jewels of Pearl River, a resource dedicated to more deeply involve current residents and to attract new and committed citizens to our community.

Your "input process" has been a sham start to finish. Posted input meetings that never took place but were never cancelled. Round after round of "surveys" that were not usable links. Dropping whole categories of us who took part in extensive rounds of meetings with your staff and architects without any further communication and then announcing a completely unrelated bond initiative...a stunning lack of transparency and input.

You dont address parking which is an important issue

We need to have a safe, attractive and welcoming library in Pearl River!!!!!!!

I wish the main area could be quieter and less social.