

# Big Rapids Library Project Committee

## COMMUNITY IDEAS

February 19, 2008

The Big Rapids Library Project Committee held a community ideas meeting at City Hall, 7:00 p.m. on February 19, 2008. After a brief history of the library, the participants were divided into four groups with a facilitator at each group.

The small groups were asked to brainstorm a “wish list” of desired outcomes and challenges involved in providing an improved library facility. The groups then prioritized their lists by having each participant “vote” for their top two wish list items; top two challenges by placing a sticker next to those items. The groups then came together and a Master List was compiled to identify the highest priority items.

The following are the Master List. The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of times that item was included as a priority if it came up more than once. The items are in no particular order. Many items were “tied” with the same number of votes so all those items are included in the Master List.

### **Wish List Items**

- More hours
- Great space for kids
- (2) Same location
- Technology improvements
- (2) More parking
- Affordable
- Meet the diverse needs of the community (adequate space, programming, collections, technology)

### **Challenges**

- (4) Funding
- Parking
- Renovation of current library including making it safer
- Spending money responsibly for long term planning
- Marketing

The all the ideas that were presented are listed below.

## Wish list

Affordable	Keep library where it is. (2)
Art Center/gallery	Kitchen (2)
Audio/video drop box	Landscaping (inviting)
Better outside lighting	Meets the Needs of the community
Coffee Shop (2)	Media collection enlargement
Books	More hours (2)
Gifts	Move library
Collection expanded made current (4)	Closer to downtown
especially non-fiction	New shelves compact
more books	One Floor (2)
need space for them (2)	Parking (3)
Community Funding	Performing arts center (3)
Community/meeting Rooms (2)	200 seat
accessible Extended Hours	Preserve the park at current building
Comfortable seating (3)	Program statement before hiring architect
Couches	Programming for tweens and teens
Reading room lounge area (2)	Rest room improvement (2)
outside	Main floor
Covered area for drop off and pick up	Security
Dedicated rooms	Special project spacing raised reading room
Drive up book dropEmail reminders books	stage
due	Staff entrance
Fireplace (3)	Staff work space improvement processing
Funding through other than millage	administration collection (3)
GED Center and Program	Technology classes
Great children's space (4)	Technology improvements (3)
Children's play area	State of the art
Child friendly	Computers, copy machines, public fax
More space	More computers
Handicap accessible (2)	Teen Space
Meet ADA	Web site (keep up to date) (2)
Include historical museum	Windows
Keep the great staff	

## Challenges

Accessibility

Allowing food and drink

Children's books all together

Children's events during non work hours

Consensus reaching

Cross promotion within community and

Ferris

District Library (2)

Financing (4)

Townships (2)

Fundraising

Futurist thinking (2)

Heating and cooling improvements

Keep community informed and behind  
project (2)

Location (3)

Maintenance

Monitoring

Move library to another location

One floor (2)

Parking (2)

Programming

More

Public relations/Marketing

Re-design and add to (2)

Make safer

Space

Staffing (2)

Structural concerns

Tear Down and rebuild in same place

Spending money responsibly for long term  
planning

Use former studies