*I have repeatedly offered alternative proposals.*

The only alternative proposal that has been offered has been the purchase of a bookmobile, which will require additional staff, a place to store the vehicle, and continual maintenance.

*I agree it was not built to be a library.  Neither is the proposed new library which is primarily being built to be a community meeting space.*

Community spaces do not have book stacks, dedicated program spaces for children and teens, multiple areas of public access computers, or librarians. This building has been designed by library staff to have all these as well as spaces where members of the community can gather to meet.

*I have no faith in the idea that teens will use a new library.  I do not believe that a library is an adequate or appropriate teen center.*

Teens are already using the library. A new library, with a dedicated space for them, will provide the teenagers of Greenfield a place where they can congregate to work on homework, socialize, and participate in craft programs, book discussion groups, and half-day school events.

*While I recognize issues for the mobility impaired those issues will continue to exist regardless of the use of the library.  Greenfield does have a great public library which is the most ADA compliant in the County at Greenfield Community College.  Any materials from the Greenfield Public library not available at that location can be accessed at the GCC library in a day.*

A new library will be accessible in ways our current building never can be, from stairless entrances at ground level to enough room to maneuver a wheelchair between book stacks to floors that don’t have unexpected lips or inclines. GCC’s library, while a beautiful facility, was designed to serve the college community, not the general public. It does not offer programs for children or adults, DVDs, popular literature, or an extensive collection of Large Print books. While materials from GPL can be delivered to GCC, it can take anywhere from a few days to a week to get them there, requires a GCC Community Borrower card, and necessitates multiple trips to pick the materials up.

*Proposals dating back to 1999 and known to every library director from that time forward is to expand from the back into the existing fire station, children's room on bottom, administrative offices on top and to purchase a book mobile to be housed where the ladder truck currently exists.  I believe we could do that for less than 1/2 the towns portion of building a new library.  While I am sure some will say it can not be done, those would likely be the same people who said that the Community Center could not be built for one million dollars less than was proposed.*

Expanding the library into the current fire station would require both an extensive cleanup of hazardous materials to make the building safe for the general public and hiring at least three more full-time librarians to make sure the children’s room would be adequately covered. Also, alteration of the current library building in any way is not allowed as the entire building is on the National Historic Register. In addition, having the administrative offices located in a separate building would be problematic as our administrators also frequently staff our busy public service desks, which would leave each ‘half’ of the library understaffed at any given time.