



Thirty-one participants attended the third *Speak Up!* community engagement session on April 12, 2018, including Facilitating Team members, members of the Board of Library Trustees, and several Library employees.

Session #3 of the *Speak Up!* community engagement project continued the conversation about the future of the Batavia Public Library. Christopher R. Kottra, Senior Engineer, Building Technology Consultants Inc., presented information about the current state of the Library’s building and grounds, including the evaluation and needs addressed in the recently completed Capital Asset Study, while H. Joseph McKane, Library Accountant / Finance Specialist, presented information on the Library’s financial landscape. (To view the presentation, **please return to the Speak Up! page of the Library website.**) Following the presentation, participants worked in small groups to complete the tasks listed above. Following is a summary of the responses from the groups.

TASK #1: POSSIBLE NEW SOURCES OF INCOME

A. Discuss the *positive aspects* and *negative aspects* of each option.

Identify other options—that is, other potential sources of income—that the Library could explore, and list them below.

B. Selection of Options

TASK #2: AWARENESS

How should the Library make the community at large aware of building repair and maintenance issues—and expenses—as identified in the Capital Asset Study?

TASK #1: POSSIBLE NEW SOURCES OF INCOME

For the first task, small group participants at Community Engagement Session Three were asked to provide suggestions for potential sources of income. There were few suggestions beyond the list provided. One group provided two suggestions, “Charge admission to out of towners” and “Rental fees for groups with no Batavia Resident (?)” One other group shared the idea, “Go fund me for specific projects that have appeal.” Other groups did not provide additional suggestions for this task.

The second part of this task asked participants to review a list of potential sources of income including: increase rate for overdue fines, raise private funds, charge admission fees for selected programs/events, borrow money, charge rental fees to use meeting rooms, ask voters to approve a continuation of the existing tax rate, increase charge for photocopies, charge rental fees for selected collections, and ask voters to approve an increase in the tax rate. After reviewing and discussing

options in small groups, participants were asked to individually complete an activity called a “Forced Choice” activity. To complete this activity, each of the items on the prepared list were placed into pairs. For example: increase rate for overdue fines/raise private funds. Then the participant had to choose which item in the pair he/she felt was more important. All items on the list were paired with each other at some point in the “forced” choice. At the end of the comparisons, participants totaled the number of times an item was selected. The totals for all the participants were calculated to determine the list of priorities shown below.

Priority Ranking	Potential Source of Income	Percent of Selection by <i>Speak Up!</i> Participants
1	Ask voters to approve a continuation of the existing tax rate	19.4%
2	Raise private funds	13.6%
3	Increase charge for photocopies	11.7%
4	Charge rental fees for selected collections	11.1%
5	Increase rate for overdue fines	10.7%
6	Charge rental fees to use meeting rooms	9.5%
7	Charge admission fees for selected programs/events	8.8%
8	Borrow money	7.6%
9	Ask voters to approve a tax increase	7.4%

TASK #2: AWARENESS

For Task #2, the *Speak Up!* small groups were asked to share suggestions for ways to increase the community’s awareness of building repair and maintenance issues – and expenses – as identified in the Capital Asset Study. A variety of ideas were given such as posting information in traditional media, on social media and the website, as well as including information in *Neighbors* magazine. Other suggestions included placing posters in the lobby, inserting flyers in books at check-out, and continuing to build relationships with organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Women’s Club and other organizations in town.

**For a complete listing of all responses
see the CES-3 Verbatim Response Document please contact the library.**