

Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Tuesday, February 18, 2003 - Library Board Room
04:30 PM - 01:10 PM

Minutes of Actions and Decisions of the Board of Library Trustees of the Bellingham Public Library as Authorized by RCW 27.12.210 and SEC. 7.02 Charter of the City of Bellingham.

Board Members Present: Alan Kemble, H.A. Barney Goltz, Karen Durham, Rick Rhodes

Board Members Absent: Judith Wiseman

Library Staff: Julie Carterson; Margaret Ziegler; Gladys Fullford

Others:

Minutes approved: January, 2003 regular meeting

Claims approved: January, 2003 general fund \$77,375.62; gift fund \$485.60

Statistics: New people counters are showing a remarkable increase in the amount of visitors.

Discussion: Therese Holm, Finance Director, answered the Board's bonding questions. Bonds are at a 40-year low. It is a good time to issue bonds at low interest rates benefiting the tax payers. Bonds must be approved by 60% of the number of voters who voted in the last general election. Finance needs to be advised of the vote date, construction date, draw-down dates, and the operating and maintenance impact for the City.

The Site Evaluation Report is being made public domain. There will be one copy at the Reference Desk, two circulating copies, as well as one copy for the Fairhaven Branch, the County, the Mayor, and each Councilperson.

Director's Report: Senator Dale Brandland came through for us and will not support legislation that would confiscate public terminals without due process.

Other legislation concerning libraries includes mandatory reporting of child abuse. We are opposed because the penalties are severe. We do not have the training and experience. Val Stevens is chair of the committee.

If the filtering legislation gets out of committee, it will probably pass. It would be a non-funded mandate. This would be a tremendous cost to the Library, a minimum of \$25,000 or the value of 1,200 to 1,400 books.

There is concern regarding the cutting of the State Library's budget. The anticipated closure date would be in May.

Sandy Zell has made the news at the Information School at University of Washington with the We Share A Story project. There will be a fund raising for this project by the Friends at the Hagen's Cordata store.

Alan, Julie, and Tom Glenn met with the Mayor. The Mayor was supportive of releasing the Site Evaluation Report. The Library bond issue will be delayed until the spring of 2004 because of the EMS levy in September. It was suggested that we approach the School District about a shared ballot in the spring. The Associated Washington Cities is holding a seminar in March on

“How to Win a Bond Election.” Board members are invited to attend. Jim Zervas would like to meet with the Board at the next Board meeting to discuss the Preliminary Programming Plan.

We are facing 7% cuts in the 2004 budget because of the EMS vote delay. This will be further discussed at the next Board meeting.

Executive Session: Personnel contract update.

Next Regular Meeting – March 18, 2003 will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees