

Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Tuesday, April 15, 2003 - Library Board Room
04:30 PM - 06:20 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

Board Members Absent: Judith Wiseman, Tim Douglas

Library Staff: Julie Carterson; Gayle Helgoe; Margaret Ziegler; Jane Lowrey and Gladys Fullford

Others: Grant Deger, Council Liaison, Mauri Ingram, Ken Culver, Rick Rhodes

Minutes approved: March 18, 2003 regular meeting noting the attendance of Grant Deger, City Council Liaison.

Claims approved: March, 2003 general fund \$21,551.88; gift fund \$123.76

Board: Alan Kemble thanked Rick Rhodes for his service over the years. Rick said his eight years as a Board Member have been pleasurable, and he hopes to be a resource in the future. Rick suggested a need to review the appointment process for trustees; he also requested that a formal apology be made to Dennis Lane. He recommended that a training program for new trustees be developed and advocated attendance requirements for board members. Rick suggested that the public television channel be used to educate the community about the library and its needs.

Staff Reports: Jane Lowrey presented the results of the first 1,618 user surveys gathering patron information on mandatory budget reductions. Patrons overwhelmingly preferred an 8:00 p.m. closing Monday through Thursday rather than other options that were proposed. They also supported raising fines to help with budget deficits, but do not like hold fees. Comments strongly endorsed children's programs and recommended no cuts. Many suggested charging for Internet use, charging to borrow a/v equipment, and fundraising through corporate donations and public events.

Centennial Project: Mauri Ingram, Downtown Renaissance Network Director, and Ken Culver gave an update on the Centennial Project. It is being promoted as a cultural district capitalizing on the proximity of the library, museum and theatre. Presentations have been made to the PFD, City Council and cultural arts groups. Mauri asked the Library Board to reconsider their decision regarding participation in a feasibility study to raise funds for the Centennial Project. The PFD is underwriting the study for the museum, theatre and music festival but is legally precluded from funding the library's participation.

The study would test the waters for grants, corporate contributions, and private donations. Many donors specify collaborative projects for funding considerations. The Centennial Project provides a unique opportunity to solicit large contributions for a campus with significant economic development potential.

Karen Durham noted that the project is exciting and that the library should be a major player. However she emphasized the necessity for the library to engage in a comprehensive public process, observing that the library is the only institution that must go before the public for a bond issue.

Barney Goltz said that when the Library Board appointed the Site Evaluation Committee, the Centennial Project had not been conceptualized. The library board has the obligation to listen to public reactions to this report. He recounted the PFD's legal restrictions barring funding for the library and addressed the need for City Council to make the ultimate decision on siting the library. City Council has seen the library's presentation in both executive and workshop sessions.

The library has scheduled three public meetings to listen to citizen's visions and comments on a new library. Invitations will be sent to the neighborhood associations and the Mayor's advisory committees to enable broad representation. The meetings will employ a facilitative process.

Times and dates:

7:00 p.m. April 29th Rotunda Room, Whatcom Museum of History & Art

7:00 p.m. May 15th Lecture Room, Bellingham Public Library

2:00 p.m. May 17th Lecture Room, Bellingham Public Library

Local RUDAT Architects are working on a Preliminary Space Needs Assessment / Building Program.

Director's Report: There have been enthusiastic public comments on Janet Peterson's signing for the Children's Department Story Time presentations.

Scott Blume had a mishap while surfing in Hawaii. He has a broken ear drum.

The "We Share A Story" drive is doing well. *Mabela the Clever*, an African folktale, will be read in 600 classrooms, worldwide! All four of Bellingham's sister cities are participating. Translations in Russian, Japanese and Spanish are in production. This is truly an international collaboration whose participants, including the author and publisher, have given generously of their time, money and enthusiasm.

The RFP for a library automation system will be preceded by an RFQ, a request for quote, which will be mailed in late April with an anticipated deadline for responses in late June. We hope to have vendor demonstrations in August.

There has been a definite increase in incidents at the library. The Police Department will incorporate walk-throughs by their bicycle team.

Action Items: Barney Goltz moved approval of the withdrawal of 5,919 materials for January through March. The motion was seconded and approved.

Following discussion of how the library should meet the Mayor's mandate to decrease the budget by 4% for FY 2004, Karen Durham moved to adopt Library Director's proposal to increase fines. Adult fines will increase to 25 cents a day, children's fines will increase to 10 cents a day, and a new fine of 50 cents will be assessed for unclaimed holds. Exemptions for fines on Sunday's and holidays were rescinded. A 7% reduction for FY 2004 will be discussed later.

Gary Pitcher, Budget Director for the City of Bellingham, is developing a re-appropriation bill for Council action, which includes a sum of \$16,792 for acquisition invoices, carried over from 2002.

Jane Lowrey is working on a brochure detailing patron's privacy rights under the USA Patriot Act. Jane is looking at the status of other legislation.

Executive Session: None.

Next Regular Meeting – May 20, 2003 will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees