

Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Tuesday, January 20, 2004 - Library Board Room
04:00 PM - 05:35 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, Tim Douglas

Board Members Absent: Judith Wiseman

Library Staff: Julie Carterson; Margaret Ziegler; Gladys Fullford; Donna Grasdock

Others: Tom Glenn, Vlema Wendt, Sue Hynes, Susan Tercek

Minutes approved: December 16, 2003 regular meeting

Claims approved: December, 2003 general fund \$69,448.93; gift fund \$3,603.26

Statistics: The Board appreciates the hard work of staff in light of the increased statistics.

Board Report: Tim Douglas presented pictures of the Snohomish Library. They appear to have more shielded computers. Their Fireplace room is heavily used. They feel there is a lack of security in placing the Children's Library adjacent to the main door. Julie Carterson has contacted three architects to obtain pictures of new libraries.

Director's Report: We are hosting a WWU graduate research student, Rowenn Kalman, who is working under the auspices of Joyce Hammond, Director of Anthropology. Rowenn met with a small advisory group to identify key groups to contact and identify what people think about a new library. The group suggested she meet with the Technical Alliance Group and others, like the Newcomers and Home Schoolers, to generate ideas of what the new library might look like and how to incorporate new technology.

Julie Carterson expressed her concern for the budget over the next few years. The mayor's budget goals are online, published in the Preliminary Budget document. The Mayor wants to establish base line budgets with projections through 2009.

The Request for Qualifications of library architects has gone to Public Works for consideration. The 1983 geo-technical report on this building has been found. It only covers the front of the building, not the rear. A copy of the study will be added to the collection along with the seismic study of the building, also discovered.

Sandy Zell, Helen Scholtz, Scott Blume, Margaret Ziegler, Jane Lowrey and Alan Kemble will be attending the Public Library Association Conference February 25-28 in Seattle. We have applied for assistance from the State Library to defray costs of staff attendance.

The Fairhaven Friends are developing proposals regarding structural issues at Fairhaven, and will submit proposals to historical preservation organizations to fund repairs and improvements. There may be funds available through the Carnegie Foundation or the Washington State Preservation Society. Julie Carterson introduced Sue Hynes, Fairhaven Friends President and Susan Tercek, Treasurer.

Discussion Items: Staff would like to establish some mechanisms to meet with the Board on a regular basis. Julie Carterson suggested staff identify representatives to meet with Alan Kemble preliminary to the agenda. Alan would be happy to meet with staff representatives informally.

There have been inquiries on how the public might contact Board members. Board members and their addresses are listed on the website. Alan's phone number is also listed. Tim Douglas stated we have adequate public process.

Staff has suggested we have a storyboard with charts and statistics in bar graph format that the public can see as they walk in the door.

The Bellingham Herald will be contacted to insure the publishing of the notice of the Board's meeting in the Daily Almanac.

There is a measure before the Washington legislature to require the Secretary of State to conduct a feasibility study of Internet filtering alternatives. Currently filtering proposals before the legislature are more draconian than the federal interpretation of CIPA. The anticipated outcome would limit choices of filtering software available to libraries. Many libraries have already installed software; others are considering options. The proposal as presented is ill considered and unwarranted; and, considering trade issues, may invite legal interventions from vendors whose products aren't selected. Dynix has third party software compatible with our system and would meet the intent CIPA. We included provisions to option purchase in our recently concluded contract with Dynix.

The timeline of a levy for a new library is tied to the timing of the County's levy for a new jail and the City's EMS levy. Meanwhile we are moving forward with the RFQ and meeting with City Council to ask for authorization of a study of this site. Grant Deger has been reappointed our liaison.

State Auditor requires staff to change their computer passwords every six months. Easy combinations are a no-no. Too bad the hackers' dream is all too easily realized.

Public Comment: None.

Action Items: There were 3,265 items withdrawn for the last quarter of 2003. Copies are sent to Archives and a copy kept here for the auditors. Karen Durham moved the items specified be approved for withdrawal. The motion was seconded and approved.

Communications: Karen Durham congratulated Donna Grasdock on the letter commending her work.

Executive Session: Discussion of personnel matters.

General Session: Tim Douglas moved to accept Julie Carterson's resignation with regrets. Barney Goltz seconded with regrets. The motion was approved.

Next Regular Meeting – February 17, 2004 will begin at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees