

Special Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Wednesday, October 13, 2004 - Library Board Room
02:30 PM - 04:20 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: Chairperson: Tim Douglas, Vice-Chairperson: Alan Kemble, H.A. Barney Goltz, Judith Wiseman, David Edelstein

Board Members Absent:

Library Staff: Pamela Kiesner; Gayle Helgoe; Margaret Ziegler; Gladys Fullford

Others: Grant Deger, City Council Liaison, Sue Hynds, President, Fairhaven Friends

Library Strategic Planning Work Session: Discussion of the evolution of the Library, it's role in the community, and how to proceed with a short and longer range perspective. Pam Kiesner presented a chronology of community and library studies. This provides a historical perspective and an opportunity to determine what needs to be repeated or updated. Judith Wiseman suggested adding a study from the Downtown Cultural Center Workshop in 1998 that states the library is number one in capital facility needs. The document should be available from Patricia Decker. Tim Douglas mentioned the Capital Improvements Advisory Committee concluded the library was the number one building needing to be replaced out of the general fund.

The Geo-technical Study is an analysis of soil north of the library as well as a seismic and structural study of the present building. Can we build on top of this building? If so, what would be the cost?

Pam, Alan Kemble and Barney Goltz brought separate outlines of steps that need to be accomplished. The outlines will be consolidated into a draft work plan for review at the next board meeting.

Possible outline of efforts: Implement and assess results of geo-technical study, visit other libraries, develop RFQ for architect to establish cost estimate for project, select a site, compose library story, maintain on-going community involvement and feedback, organize a bond committee, request money from council to pay for architect for pre-bond cost study, and draft a bond issue request. Other discussion topics included: Need for new central library, maintaining funding for branch libraries, alternative options such as drop-off and pick-up branches, having population projection numbers in sync with the Growth Management Act, library meetings to spread the news, going to other venues to tell the library story, and community involvement.

Pam reviewed the staff's responsibilities: Compile a list of libraries to visit and "best practices," contact Public Works about the scope of the seismic and geo-technical study, draft the work plan, talk to Public Works about traffic studies and to Planning about population studies, and continue to revise the draft chronological history.

Current plans for better operational efficiencies for the present building include a remodel of the front check out counter if monies are approved in the 2005 budget. This will address the traffic flow and ergonomics. Some new shelving has been added to address collection space issues.

Future Meeting Date Change: It was agreed the February Regular Library Board meeting will take place on the fourth Tuesday, February 22, 2005 (not February 15th).

Next Regular Meeting – October 19, 2004 will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 a.m.

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees