

Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Tuesday, November 15, 2005 - Library Board Room
02:30 PM - 04:40 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, Faye Hill, Vicky Marshall, David Edelstein

Board Members Absent:

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

Others: John Watts, City Council Liaison, Jo Zeimet, Human Resources Director

Call to Order

Agenda Approved

Executive Session: Labor Negotiations update

Regular Session: Vicky Marshall moved to initiate and complete the performance appraisal of the Director by the end of the year. Faye seconded. Motion carries.

Minutes approved: October 11, 2005 special meeting minutes approved as read.

Minutes approved: October 18, 2005 regular meeting minutes approved with the correction that Paul Schissler is the director of the Kulshan Community Land Trust.

Claims approved: October, 2005 general fund \$33,936.46; gift fund \$132.65.

Communications: A memo from Tara Sundin, Planning, about the library site is in the board's packet

Statistics: Alan Kemble noted that we have passed one million in circulation. We are narrowing the gap between circulation and persons visiting. Gayle mentioned the statistics show a much greater use of the remote catalog, more reserves and more online services. It is worth investigating a pickup place, preferably in the North. Alan said he is using the Haggan drop-off. Users of this service are not counted as visitors.

Public Comment: None

Interlocal Agreement: There are some changes to the annual BPL/WCLS contract for simplification. Joan Airolti took the contract before the WCLS Board this morning. They would like to strike the words, "and Boards" under V. C.. They do not feel this needs Board oversight. John Watts asked about the mailing services costs. These costs are covered in the Memo of Understanding. Faye Hill moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement. David Edelstein seconded. Alan Kemble made the motion to delete the two words "and Boards" under V.C. of the Interlocal Agreement. The motion was seconded. The motion carries. The motion as amended was approved.

Strategic Planning: Pam Kiesner talked with Clark Williams from Public Works regarding a traffic study at the Municipal Court site. Clark said there were no traffic circulation issues at the site. It would probably be necessary to have two-way circulation all around the block. Clark also thought there would be no problem to vacate "B" Street.

Malcolm Fleming mentioned at the City Department Head meeting that First American Title has approached the City to see if there is interest in buying their property. A smaller group met to discuss this possibility on November 4th. It is a great piece of property. It is not a very big piece of property, but could connect with the Children's Museum or become an integrated central arts area. A sky bridge could be built. The Board would like to find out who owns the parking lot.

At the same meeting, the office building across from the library (housing Hizzoner's restaurant) was discussed. City staff will be meeting with Dewey Desler about the Hizzoner's building to see if the County is interested in talking about its future.

David Edelstein suggested we should advertise for any available sites within certain perimeters or ask Planning Department to bring their sites forward (referring to the communication from Tara Sundin.) All available sites must be looked at with the library's criteria. Alan agreed that we should ask Planning Department to show us their sites, but they need to know our criteria. John Watts said we need to engage the community for a new library and where it should be situated. Pin something down and come up with a proposal.

John mentioned the Council was given a list of goals and objectives as relates to the budget. He was surprised to see along with retrofitting the Fairhaven Branch Library, taking a look at a branch in the North. He didn't feel the Council put this on their list. KGMI called John to discuss the new branch library in Northeast Bellingham. He explained we are only talking about some sort of presence. Pam said she was asked to submit a statement for the 2006 library budget which explained a refurbishing of the Fairhaven Branch Library and analysis of a library presence in the northeast.

In anticipating bond issues next year, John said the school board will ask for \$67 million, there are two Greenway groups talking about a bond, and it is expected there will be a library bond issue.

David suggested at least writing a short note to Tara Sundin to state the Board's interest in knowing all about potential library sites. The Board would like to see a list in writing, and compare it to our criteria. Tim stated the Library has its own mission, and cannot be anchored to other entities, but can partner with them.

At the next Strategic Planning Meeting, Pam will try to have more information on the county property across the street. She will contact Tara about other possible sites that would be immediately available. The Board is only interested in willing sellers, no condemnations. Vicky stressed she would like to hear about the sites through Pam's filter of how it fits our needs.

Tim stated the Board needs to take the branch issue head-on. The Board has the responsibility of long range planning, 50 to 100 years. If things continue as they are going, some day we will need branches. At present, the economy does not permit fully staffed additional branches. The Board would like to see a presence in the northeast where materials could perhaps be picked up as well as dropped off.

2006 Meeting Dates and Times: David moved the schedule presented in the packet was reasonable and should be approved. Vicky seconded the motion. Motion carries. Pam mentioned a possible joint meeting with the WCLS Board, having Alan Marriner come to talk about the Open Public Meetings Act, and having someone speak about the New Whatcom Plan.

Director's Report: Pam reviewed the persons with whom she had meetings. She went to the WCLS Friends meeting at the Lynden Library. WCLS has Friends groups for each branch and bookmobile.

Three staff attended the Dynix Conference in Minneapolis. Tim will be coming to the staff meeting tomorrow for a question and answer session.

The Maude Hayes Fisher program is Saturday. This will coincide with the We Share A Story celebration week. Vicky asked for any space to post signs. Vicky is a teacher at Roosevelt School. The whole school stopped and listened to the We Share A Story book reading and feedback over the radio.

This is Gayle Helgoe's last official board meeting as a staff member. She and Margaret have been on the library staff for 35 years.

Other Matters: None.

Next Strategic Planning Board Meeting – December 13, 2005 will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – December 20, will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees