

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

December 2005

Director's Report and Highlights

December 20, 2006

Submitted by Pam Kiesner

Appreciation for the Library Board of Trustees

In its work session last week, the Library Board received a “look back” on what was accomplished this year with the addition of an extra meeting each month. What a busy year it has been! How lucky we are in Bellingham to have such a dedicated group of volunteers who represent the community as the Library Board of Trustees.

Many of you reading this may not know that the Library Board of Trustees is the governing board responsible for the policies and budget of the City Library. Trustees are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. They serve five-year terms, meet monthly (and in this year's case – twice a month), and generally serve as the oversight body for the Library.

This group of five represents the interests of the citizens of the community, and support and advocate for excellent library services for all. You can be very proud of the thoughtful, thorough, and intelligent discussions that take place during their meetings. From looking closely at library finances, policies, and strategic direction – this group is dedicated in their efforts and interest.

Why am I telling you this? Because I am impressed, and I want you to know what an excellent job your Board of Trustees does on the community's behalf, to make sure that this Library is the best!

Looking forward

To that end, as we recognize how widely the library is used, we are making plans for improvements in the future. In 2006 we will:

1. Continue to evaluate various sites for building a replacement Central Library. We are bursting at the seams, and are struggling to keep up with modern technologies in a 55 year-old building. We are anxious to provide the kind of services that an exciting modern library can accommodate: spaces for children that excite, cozy places for book groups to gather, computer labs for learning and teaching, comfortable meeting facilities for a wide variety of group sizes, and much more!
2. Commission a structural review of the Fairhaven Branch library so that we know what work needs to be done to maintain its viability as a library facility and historic structure that will meet the needs of the growing south side.
3. Plan for how we can meet the library needs of the northern part of Bellingham specifically in the Barkley area. Evidence of the need arrives daily in the form of our book drop bin at the Barkley Haggan Store. It is full to the brim, and full of children's materials! This tells us that this could be a likely place for us to plan a larger library “presence” in this area – beyond just a drop off point.

These three service points will be a focus for your library – and your Library Board in 2006.

In the meantime, enjoy, use, and give feedback to us on all library services available to you.

Your Library Board members are:

Tim Douglas, President
Alan Kemble, Vice-President
David Edelstein
Faye Hill
Vicky Marshall

Happy Season's Readings!