

Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Tuesday, December 20, 2005 - Library Board Room
02:30 PM - 04:50 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; Margaret Ziegler; Gladys Fullford

Others: Jo Zeimet, Human Resources Director, Lorna Klemanski

Call to Order

Executive Session: Labor Negotiations update

Regular Session: City Holidays and Library Closures: David made the motion to accept the City designated holidays for 2006 – 2008 as library closures. Alan seconded. Motion carries. Alan moved to approve the proposed additional closures of Sunday, January 1, 2006, Sunday, April 16, 2006, and Sundays from June 4 – September 3, 2006. Also, that the library will remain open on Veteran’s Day, Saturday, November 11, 2006. The City’s designated holiday is Friday, November 10, 2006. Vicky seconded. The motion was approved. Faye made the motion to approve the additional closures and opening for 2007 and 2008. The motion died. The Board will retain the flexibility of revisiting these years when the budget is known.

Agenda Approved

Minutes approved: November 15, 2005 regular meeting minutes approved as read.

Minutes approved: December 13, 2005 special meeting minutes approved as read.

Claims approved: November, 2005 general fund \$65,831.21; gift fund \$1,423.06.

Communications: Pam mentioned an email that came yesterday regarding room rental prices for 2006. The email will be copied for the January Board Packet.

Statistics: Tim asked about children’s statistics. Pam said children’s statistics are up at Central Library and down at Fairhaven. Tim would like to see more information about holds placed electronically and the dynamics with children’s attendance. Pam senses that it is not a concern, but we need to be aware of the numbers. Donna Graddock is making connections in Fairhaven, and is partnering with members of the community for programming purposes.

Public Comment: None

Strategic Planning: Dick McKinley drafted a RFP (Request for Proposals) for library property. Pam has reviewed it, and legal has made appropriate changes. Pam asked the Board for comments, additions and approval to send out next week. Tim submitted copies of his suggested deletions and additions. David made the suggestion to be consistent in saying in or near the Central Business District and/or the Civic Center, and presented other clarifications, deletions, and additions. David asked if there was any need to mention confidentiality with sellers. Real Estate proposals are for Executive Session. Negotiations will not necessarily be public. Regarding Alan’s question about notification, Tim explained in fairness,

any additional information obtained from any other source would be distributed to all. David said the bid proposal would have a line item saying any alternates or changes would be made public prior to closing date. Variations cannot be made without telling everyone. Pam will incorporate the changes and questions, send the RFP to Dick McKinley, and get back to the Board. Vicky suggested clarifying the evaluation and selection in the most flexible way to state it. Alan commented that he liked Tim's changes. The north arrow on the maps would help to determine sunlight directions. Pam is working on a news release that will go out at the same time as the RFP.

Board Member Report: Tim conveyed the highlights of the December 13th meeting to KGMI. After the news broadcast, Tim received a call from Glen Hallman from Senior Services, who said we must have been reading their minds. They have parking problems, and would be interested in a joint venture, perhaps at the waterfront or Carl Cozier. He stressed the need for a kitchen facility.

Tim also spoke with Patricia Decker, who expressed her concern about the possibility of blending with the Children's Museum activities. The Museum has to fulfill their commitments on that site. They have limitations, and have made investment in designs and the property. Patricia's second significant concern was that moving in that direction would create a "super block." Visual and pedestrian movement must continue. Tim was stimulated by her comments into thinking about what kind of corridor could be invigorating and inviting. He assured Patricia that we are not at the design stage that would preclude movement. Pam also contacted Patricia Decker and Tom Livesay upon hearing about the KGMI news broadcast, so that they would be informed about the Board's discussion about the various sites and the museum.

Vicky thanked everyone who came to the Maude Hayes Fisher award ceremony.

Executive Session: The Executive Session reconvened to discuss labor management negotiations.

Regular Session: 2006 Library Board meeting date change: Pam asked to change the March Board Meeting to March 14th because she will be attending the PLA conference on March 21st. Faye moved to move the March Board Meeting date to March 14, 2006. Vicky seconded. The motion carried.

Director's Report: Pam reported that the City has decided not to do a biennial budget for 2007-2008. There are too many other priority projects going on next year. The City will need more time for planning a biennial budget. They will do a biennial budget for 2009-2010.

Tim and Pam met about her performance appraisal. Taking a lead from Human Resources, Tim has asked Pam to come forward with three to five items on which to focus, rather than looking at strengths and weaknesses. Tim will provide an outline to Board members.

Other Matters: None.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – January 17, will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees