

Special Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Tuesday, February 15, 2005 - Library Board Room
02:30 PM - 04:15 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, David Edelstein, Faye Hill Judith Wiseman (by speaker phone)

Board Members Absent: None

Library Staff: Pamela Kiesner; Gayle Helgoe; Gladys Fullford

Others: Greg Aucutt, Planning, Barbara Lancaster, Sue Tercek, and Michael Menard

Bellingham Growth Forum: Greg Aucutt, Senior Planner, reviewed the status of Bellingham's Community Forum on Growth Management. The Mayor and City Council requested a community process to talk about growth, and how to accommodate the expected population increase of 31,600 within Bellingham's boundaries during the next 20 years. Over 1,000 people participated in the process, which included neighborhood and community meetings. Twenty-four urban villages were proposed. Some will be quite large such as downtown (core village), central waterfront, Old Town, Barkley Village, and Fairhaven. Smaller neighborhood or pocket villages will be spread throughout the city. Some have rules in place to allow development sooner than others, which may take years to develop. Some may require redevelopment. Master plans for the urban villages will be prepared as neighborhood plans are updated. Urban villages are a long term growth management strategy. Growth will either be within the city limits or to the north. The development of the villages will require the city's investment in sewer, water, roads, parks and library services. Library facilities are already located in the downtown core and Fairhaven. Other priority areas for library facilities could be Barkley Village, Bellis Fair, Cordata, and Larrabee Springs areas.

Review Revised Planning Grid: Pam Kiesner reviewed the changes incorporated from what was discussed at the last meeting. Pam added target dates. This is still in draft form and not in chronological order.

We are now working on a case statement based on the facility needs analysis. The statement will be as current as possible and will acknowledge the Fairhaven branch. David Edelstein suggested the statement should include a legal opinion of the use of the building. Gayle Helgoe provided a copy of the covenant. The Legal Department will be asked to give their opinion on the legal ramifications and enforceability of the covenant.

Public Works will give an update on the Geo-Technological Study at the next board meeting. The Mayor will give a State of the City address.

Next steps include tours to show the inadequacies of this building and Fairhaven. Presentations to start the public education process may begin the end of March.

The Board will help to put together the lists of people and groups to invite to the informational meetings in March. Lists of community members invited to the public reception for the new director search will be e-mailed to Board members.

Pam and Gayle met with Dave Christensen, who worked on the building program statement. His group would be willing to work on an update.

Assuming a November bond election, wording of the initiative would go to City Council in June for approval. The geo-technical and structural report will give us some direction. The size adequate to meet

the needs in 20 to 50 years should be reviewed. We need to re-review assumptions and update the study. Are there any elements to a library facility that we didn't attend to in that study such as technology questions? David Edelstein suggests adding a use to our building such as a parking garage or civic use. He would like to eliminate the need for parking on the street and open the area up for open space.

To recap: Dave Christensen could update the study to include new technologies, the Board will review the list of names to invite to the public meetings, Pam will look at public meeting dates in March, Pam will ask the City about their space needs, the planning grid will be revised to include Fairhaven, and Gayle will ask for a legal opinion on the Fairhaven deed.

Gayle said information from the Parks Department revealed that the Peter P. Lee Memorial Park is actually the ravine behind the Bellingham Police Department. When the library was built, the Lee donation was used for library landscaping and the fountain. Mr. Lee should be acknowledged in the ravine area. Tim Wahl, Greenways Program Coordinator, is working on this.

Pam mentioned the mayor is looking for names for a 15 member Citizen Budget Advisory Committee. Citizens can fill out applications at the mayor's office. The committee will meet every other week during 2005.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – February 22, 2005 will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees