

Special Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Tuesday, April 12, 2005 - Library Board Room
02:30 PM - 04:30 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, Judith Wiseman, David Edelstein

Board Members Absent:

Library Staff: Pamela Kiesner; Gayle Helgoe; Gladys Fullford

Others: Grant Deger, City Council Liaison, Jon Gambrell, Claude Hill, Michael Menard, Velma Wendt

Strategic Planning Work Session: Pam Kiesner contacted Cape Powers about progress on the engineering study. The core drilling is complete. Some holes were pretty deep. Lab tests will be complete this week. Existing blueprints of the building have been reviewed. Structure is for the most part okay; gravity load capacity is adequate for the library. There are a few weak spots in the lateral load design relating to the code changes that have occurred. Engineers will tour the library this week. Cape will meet with the geo-tech and structural consultants later this week.

David Edelstein explained the geo-tech drilling found bedrock on a slope, meaning that some holes are more shallow. It is no surprise that to build a multi-story building requires piling. The gravity load is going down while the lateral load is the sway side to side. If the present building was changed to an office building, what would be necessary to shore up the lateral load?

Review of Case Statement: We need to look at community-wide needs. Tim Douglas suggested using the more generic term “presence.” Changes include:

Page 1 “Plan to Plan” Committee

Fifth Paragraph: The city completed a “city-wide” capital improvement needs assessment...

Remove “structural” before capacity of current facilities.

2002 “Bellingham” Capital Projects Priorities Report

Page 2 Discussed terminology of national library planning guidelines. Look at comparable Pacific Northwest Libraries.

Page 3 Graph: Make the numbers larger and clarify lines for black and white copies. Add graph comparing 1983 numbers to the present.

Add: It is the library’s role to be an information resource for community and provide for those who cannot afford computers and internet at home. Speak to literacy and giving young people access to information to build towards success in life.

Page 6 Delete last sentence of first paragraph. The Board is not considering expansion or alternatives for Fairhaven Branch at this time. They acknowledge it is a growing area with future demands.

Heading before second paragraph changed to “Library Presence in Other Parts of Community.” Second Paragraph: “Exploring more innovative ways of a presence.....” and replace kiosk with store front.

Public Presentations: Pam reviewed the steps for walk-thru tours beginning either from the front door or the Lecture Room after presentations. Tours and presentations would last 15 to 45 minutes depending on questions and comments. Tours of Fairhaven could also be arranged at certain times. Tours should include Outreach and the Friends areas.

Talking Points: Continue and update the yearly bookmark report. Clarify that staff needs space to provide good service. “Technical Services is where books become library books.” Restrooms should be

in a well lit, well traveled area. Change restrooms impossible to “supervise” to “monitor” on the Between the Covers Library Tour. Pam will work on a tour schedule.

Most people only go to their local library. Our role is to show the inadequacies and how it can be better. Visuals could demonstrate better lighting in the stacks and for tasks. The Board will think of groups where an organized presentation could be given. It should be possible to give the presentation without Power Point in case it is not available. The presentation could include inadequacies, what could be done, steps to get there, and questions.

The Board was asked to think about the Mission and Vision Statements. Everything Board members say at presentations should tie to these statements. This could be put on the next agenda. Another item for the next agenda would be target groups and people.

Tim asked Judith Wiseman and Faye Hill to walk through the site evaluation document and view the sites. Judith and Faye will review these at the next meeting. Are there any places we should take another look?

Judith asked about the brainstorming report she and Alan Kemble did on the outline of the library story. Judith felt it was not a campaign document, but public information about the library. Some information is in the building statement, and staff time is needed to flesh out more information.

Grant Deger asked about a decision on the levy for the November ballot. Tim answered that the Geo-technology and seismic study was not complete. This makes the ballot timing very tight. The Board feels it would be very fast paced. They will make a decision upon receiving the report.

David believes the report will show that the grassy area behind the present library is a wonderful place for a multi story masonry public building. It is a unique location. David does not think it will be cost prohibitive. Many neighborhoods are served by the central library. It is no more than a 15 minute drive from anywhere in the city. It is centrally located. The Central Business District has the greatest opportunity for population growth (no height restrictions and no parking requirements.) The library should be located near a main transit terminal.

Velma Wendt invited the board members to the Friends annual meeting on Saturday. Laura Jacoby will present an original slide show of industries in Whatcom County.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – April 19, 2005 will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Next Special Library Board Meeting – May 10, 2005 will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees