

Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Tuesday, August 16, 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, David Edelstein, Faye Hill, Judith Wiseman

Board Members Absent: Vice-Chairperson: Alan Kemble

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

Others: Jo Zeimet, Lorna Klemanski

Called to Order

Executive Session: Labor negotiations.

Regular Session: Agenda approved.

Minutes approved: July 12, 2005 special meeting minutes approved as read.

Minutes approved: July 19, 2005 regular meeting minutes approved as amended.

Claims approved: July, 2005 general fund \$32,558.16; gift fund \$1,108.01.

Whatcom Community Fund sent their semi annual fund report. We have a \$150,000 balance. A motion was made by Judith Wiseman to reinvest both the check for the full distributable amount from our fund and a grant award check from the Whatcom Community Foundation's Bayview Fund. Faye Hill seconded. Motion approved. The Bayview Fund was established by an anonymous donor. The library is one of eight organizations to receive annual distributions. Pam said that Don Drake could come and speak to the Board. Judith suggested waiting until her position is filled, so the new board member would be present.

Communications: Judith moved to receive letters from Patrick McKee, V. & E. Voltz and Scott Blume. Faye seconded. The motion was approved. In the future, all Board members will receive copies of communications in their packets.

Statistics: Holds have doubled. This figure includes the county which cannot be separated at this time. Notes on receipts let patrons know that they can ask reference questions by email. Faye made the motion to approve 5,542 materials withdrawn during the second quarter. Judith seconded. Motion carries.

Public Comment: Margaret Ziegler asked the Board for clarification on Board communication. The Reference Desk needs to know the procedure because members of the public inquire about communicating with the Board, and they are told to write a letter. The Board determined that communications will be included in their mailed packets and will be acknowledged in the minutes. If action is necessary, it will be discussed at the meeting.

Trustee Education: Reference Services: Margaret said she is responsible for the concept, "Power of information," in the library mission. Information is processed differently by different people. Young people are "digital natives," and the rest of us are "digital immigrants." Natives receive information fast and don't need a lot of instruction. Immigrants need and want instruction. Reference Librarians are detectives, problem solvers and team players. We have more than 175 years of experience among our librarians. They answer approximately 60,000 questions a year through email, phone calls and in-

house assistance. They teach patrons how to use reference materials, both print and electronic. They help patrons develop search strategies for research. With the Internet the librarians answer more and different types of questions than was possible in the past. Cooperative relationships are maintained with libraries at Western Washington University, Bellingham Technical College, and Whatcom Community College, as well as with the Whatcom County Library System. Our library has an invaluable local history collection including documents unique to Bellingham and Whatcom County. Bellingham Public Library has newspaper clipping files that cover a time period of more than 30 years, up through 1987. From 1988 to date, the library has indexed the Bellingham Herald. Margaret also talked about hot topics in the world of reference services: virtual reference, digitization, federated search engines such as WebFeat, Google Scholar, blogs and wikis. Judith commented on the amazing resources listed in the handout describing our subscription databases. She also reminded the Board that Bellingham Public Library was a leader in the community with its online catalog.

Tim Douglas suggested the mission statement be flipped around, “Bellingham Public Library...the power of information...discovery of ideas...the joy of reading!”

Other Matters: None.

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

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – September 20, 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