

Special Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Tuesday, September 13, 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: None

Library Staff: Pamela Kiesner; Gayle Helgoe; Margaret Ziegler; Scott Blume; Gladys Fullford

Others: None

Mission Statement: Three mission statements were reviewed: Current, one endorsed by staff and revised by the Board, and a new one by Faye. Following discussion, Alan moved to adopt the second mission statement, **“Bellingham Public Library shares the power of information, encourages the discovery of ideas, and promotes the joy of reading with all members of the Bellingham community.”** Judith seconded. The motion carried. Pam asked for permission to also use the shortened version, which the Board granted. **“Bellingham Public Library...the Power of Information...Discovery of Ideas...Joy of Reading!”**

Planning Process: Pam presented the Strategic Planning Work Plan with target dates. This is updated as projects happen. Judith wanted to revisit the plan in order to keep on track. Pam will provide updates and comments in original chart form. Number two, “Formulating a compelling written case statement” has been completed. By in large the road map has been followed.

Site Evaluation Criteria: Criteria set forth a couple of years ago was revisited to see if assumptions are correct. Judith has updated the Walton Beverage site information. The criteria do not need to stay the same, but it is worthwhile to go back over them. The Board must be intentional about the three present sites. Tim thought the Board felt they would not look at any site that does not have a willing seller, and sites under public ownership would be more economical.

David mentioned that the State puts an ad in the newspaper stating criteria for project, and asks for offers matching the criteria within a set time frame. An open ad could result in a willing seller. A friendly condemnation should not be pursued except for an under utilized property that would have to be better than the current property or court site. Judith said the location could be benefited by the stimulation of business around it.

David made the motion to strike the words, “with no more than two stories” under size and shape. Alan seconded. Judith was concerned that all previous sites were judged by same criteria. David’s intention is to prevent anyone from using those words to prevent building a three story building. The motion carries. The deletion will be made.

Site Options: Pam passed out the minutes from a meeting with City Department Heads who would be affected if the Municipal Court site becomes a viable option. Everyone felt it was worth pursuing and would talk to staff members about the pros and cons. Patricia Decker suggested the same group could meet with the PFD Board. Alan mentioned the PFD might be able to contribute to a fully equipped theater/meeting room. The PFD can support entertainment facilities. Pat Lord was concerned about the seismic stability of the library’s current site. If ITSD had its own data center, repairs would need to be made to bring the building up to seismic code, and in fact, bringing the building up to code would most likely be necessary in any remodel. This could be done with shear walls in the basement.

Alan suggested we obtain information on sizes of the blocks from Public Works and aerial views from Planning. The City Center Master Plan shows Municipal Court and the northern corner of area considered. The neighborhood may appreciate a learning center rather than court functions.

Pam can arrange tours of the Municipal Court building and site. She will check with Linda Storck on accessibility. Pam will meet with Malcolm Fleming to update him. The 2006 budget provides for an assessment of City space needs. Departments in the Municipal Court building could benefit with additional space. The City does look at the Municipal Court site as a long term investment, and it was not the intent for the Courts to stay in that building on a long term basis because they were expected to need to be located back in the City Center.

Current Site: Pam met with the Bellingham Planning Group of architects. They have four schemes, and wanted to be sure they were on target. These are volumetric studies that show what siting a 75,000 square foot building on the library block may look like. Their drawing does provide for a 120 stall parking garage. The Board needs to decide whether to reuse this building, add to it, build a separate building or build around it.

Tube Time: Tim reported on an amicable discussion with the owner of the Tube Time property. The owner purchased the property on a long term investment basis and has structured his finances based on the property. He is not interested in turning the property over. It would not be beneficial to his investment portfolio. A tenant has signed a ten year lease with a ten year renewal at the tenant's initiative. It would be the legal or moral obligation of a local entity purchasing a building with tenants to find them another place. The structure is just right for the owner's purposes, and the tenants like it with the parking spaces.

Faye and Alan will work on a formal review of the Municipal Court site after hearing the Bellingham Planning Group's presentation at the regular board meeting on Tuesday.

Other Matters: Judith stated that her term is up at the end of the year. She plans to leave town on October 15th. She will be here for the October strategic planning meeting, but not the regular October meeting. She encourages the Board to think about a replacement. Tim has informed the Mayor's office.

Tim acknowledged that Gayle Helgoe plans to retire at the end of the year. Gayle has been invaluable to the Board. Gayle will be taking a lot of history with her. Gayle plans to be involved in various projects, such as the Museum. Gayle said she has been 1-1/2 years in succession planning. Iris Kaneshige is in charge of Circulation, and Madeline Sheplor has taken over the Computer Operations. Tim said he has appreciated working with Gayle on the case statement and history. Her organizational and technical skills have been extremely helpful.

In appreciation of her first year in Bellingham, Pam handed out static cling signs, "I love my Library," and asked that the Board be considering a review of Pam's first year performance. She will speak with Human Resources about a process.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – September 20, 2005 will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Next Special Library Board Meeting – October 11, 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