

Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Tuesday, April 18, 2006 - 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, Faye Hill, Vicky Marshall, David Edelstein

Board Members Absent:

Library Staff: Scott Blume; Gladys Fullford

Others: John Watts, City Council Liaison, Jeff Capell, Legal, Patty Fernandez, Public Works, Tom Glenn, and Marilyn Olsen, Whatcom Independent

Called to Order: Agenda Approved. Library Director Pam Kiesner was ill and not at today's meeting.

Executive Session: To consider acquisition of real property by lease or by purchase

Regular Session: Convened at 3:30 p.m. Tim Douglas explained that real estate matters were discussed at the Executive Session. No decision was required of the Board at this time.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes approved: March 14, 2006 regular meeting minutes approved as read.

Claims approved: March, 2006 general fund \$80,900.60; gift fund \$262.43

Statistics: Alan Kemble noted visitors were up significantly, but that Holds Filled figures were lower than expected.

Communications: The Board received a note of thanks for their consideration of rent for the Fairhaven Library Auditorium from the Fourth Corner International Folk Dancers.

Teen Summer Reading Incentive: Faye Hill moved for approval of a Fine Forgiveness incentive for teens at the start of the Summer Reading Program. Alan seconded. Up to \$5.00 of accrued fines are forgiven. David Edelstein would like to consider "collection forgiveness" as a means of retrieving long overdue or stray materials. It was suggested that staff come up with a creative idea to engage the community to bring in library materials with amnesty. The motion for Fine Forgiveness carries.

Trustee Education: The Board thought the OCLC Report, "Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources," was thought provoking and stimulating. It was noted that to improve the physical appearance of a library is not a panacea, but a welcoming place is needed to bring in people. It was a useful report for customer service. Most information consumers are not aware of nor do they use the library electronic information such as data bases. Vicky Marshall liked the idea of rejuvenating and fine tuning the library.

Scott Blume read in Time Magazine how the new generation thinks they can "google" anything. Information on search engines and information in data bases is on-going nationwide and librarywide. Data bases are used in schools' efforts to make young people more aware of how they can look up information.

The report mentioned that university students use public libraries, but WWU, WCC and Bellingham Vo-Tech have very highly developed high-tech libraries.

Faye has taken a catalog instruction class at the library. The classes are very informational, but attendance could be higher. The Board thanked Pam for sending the OCLC report. They are also still interested in her PLA report when she returns.

Strategic Planning: The Board read the draft RFP for Fairhaven Structural and Historic Preservation Assessment. Faye was glad to see the assessment should include a historical preservation plan or recommendations.

Reports: Tim will be going to the Waterfront Meeting at the Port headquarters to hear the report from WWU.

Vicky attended a conference that had a meeting about the Washington State Library. Vicky passed the information on to Pam. This could be a Trustee Education matter.

Scott is working with Ann Reed, Director of Library and Instructional Media at Bellingham School District. The Children's Room hosts visits from Bellingham Vo-Tech and Whatcom Community College students. These are ESL (English as Second Language) and Children's Literature classes. We also serve individual students from WWU Children's Literature classes.

Tim explained the Healthy Community Network (HCN) will be coming on-line in late May. WIN is being integrated into HCN. The database information is being merged into 2-1-1 databases for anything other than non-medical or fire emergency questions.

Other Matters: None.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – May 16, 2006 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