

Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Tuesday, April 17, 2007 - Library Board Room
02:00 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: David Edelstein, Vice-Chairperson: Faye Hill, Vicky Marshall, J. Robert Gordon, Marilyn Mastor

Board Members Absent:

Library Staff: Pam Kiesner; Gladys Fullford

Others: Tom Glenn, Friends of BPL

Called to Order: Regular session was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair David Edelstein. The agenda was approved.

Public Comment: Tom Glenn appreciates the enormous task the Board has before them and the open way they are going about it.

Minutes approved: March 20, 2007 regular meeting minutes approved as read.

Discussion of the recording of minutes is tabled until all five board members are present.

Claims approved: March, 2007 general fund \$62,742.27; gift fund \$824.75;

Library Performance & Activity Measures: Withdrawn materials have been approved quarterly in the past. Withdrawals and additions are now shown monthly in the new performance and activity measures chart under holdings. Pam proposes approving this monthly instead of quarterly. Vicky Marshall moved to accept the withdrawals shown on the library performance and activity measures. The motion carries.

Statistics continue to increase. Staff is to be commended on the increased activity level. There is lower revenue for room rentals at the Central Library. Use is higher, but more use is by non-paying groups. The rental rates are very reasonable and in line with the Parks Department room rentals. Every night during March was booked.

J. Gordon arrived, and the Board took the tape recording of minutes discussion off the table. Historically, library board minutes have been written based on listening to discussion, not on tape recordings. Tape recordings started last year just for the site selection. Discussion followed and included the pros and cons of continuing to record. The minutes need to reflect motions and business that is transacted, and the Board is responsible for approving the accuracy of the minutes at the following meeting. Faye Hill moved to cease tape recording meetings. Vicky seconded. The motion carried with one no vote.

Communications: Margie Lee sent letters directly to Board members. The letter followed a visit with Tim Wahl of the Parks Department. In 1937 P.P. Lee donated \$15,000 in a non-restrictive gift to the Parks Department. The designated area for a park is next to the Police Station by Whatcom Creek. Tim Wahl is recommending a rededication of the park next to the Police Station by Whatcom Creek through a Council resolution. This is a Parks issue since the money was given to Parks. Pam has responded to Margie's letter.

Budget: The Board will receive an item each month regarding the budget for discussion or approval. The Board is asked this month to approve the drafted 2008 objectives in concept since they are due May 1st. The Library objectives are tied to the Council's objectives. Pam reviewed the objectives as presented.

Capital requests will be presented at the next board meeting. Recent capital items include the new circulation counters, new library design with \$33,000 added in 2007, Fairhaven structural review. The \$5 million for land acquisition has been removed from the 2007 budget.

Strategic Planning: An on-line suggestion form will be available soon.

The Fairhaven public meeting on April 5 went well. Rhoda Lawrence, BOLA Architects, and Myron Carlson gave straight forward presentations and a tour of the facility. Pam will still set up a meeting with Rick Haggen regarding the property next to Fairhaven Branch.

Pam is currently working on the draft RFP for the consultant to work with the community, staff and board on the Central Library building program.

Whatcom Community College Board Chairman, Robert Fong, met with the Mayor. It sounds like a partnership with the library may be a suggested initiative for the new WCC President, who is interested getting community involved on campus. Pam met with Linda Lambert regarding implementing a drop off and pick-up by June or July. WCC has a drop box that can be shared with us.

Pam met with Jeff Kochman of Barkley Village. There is the potential of shared space with a retailer in the Drake building, providing for a pick-up and drop off by fall at little or no cost. A separate Barkley Friends Committee could be organized to provide magazine and book exchange and chairs. There is the potential for further programming, such as story times or book discussion groups. These are pilot projects that we can monitor to see how well they work.

WCLS is seriously thinking about a levy lid lift in the spring. It was suggested the directors and board presidents get together for a meeting.

J. Gordon offered to help Pam with wording on RFP to allow for a good contract to involve local business.

A work session is not contemplated before the next regular board meeting. The May 22nd meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. with strategic planning early in the meeting agenda.

Board Reports: Faye said the Brown Bag Lunch meetings had small attendance but wonderful content. These are programs we need to take on the road to the community with different venues or times.

J. Gordon commented on marketing how space will be used in the new library. Libraries are places of social gathering and provide a sense of community. Iris and Jane's presentation could be added to brown bag presentations.

Pam is going to the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting and will be available to attend individual neighborhood meetings.

Vicky mentioned the library could have representatives at fairs and farmer's markets.

Director Report: The new Head of Information and Reader Services position has been offered and accepted. Beth Farley was the Head of Jackson County Reference Department in Medford, Oregon. The system has been closed for lack of funds.

The staff, Friends and board members toured 3 Richmond, B.C. libraries: one central and two branches. They had great marketing ideas including Teen Zones. Pam will ask Iris and Jane to do a presentation to the Board on the "San Jose Way."

The Friends annual meeting is Saturday. Speaker is Pulitzer Prize winning author, William Dietrich.

Museum is going to bid on their new building.

Staff have submitted and received a grant for a We the People Bookshelf from the National Endowment for the Humanities. We have also submitted an application for a Gates grant for two computers for a teen zone.

“First Mike” Gregoire visited the library. He is touring public and school libraries all over the state. He donated two books to the Children’s Department: his favorite, “True Story of Three Little Pigs as Told by the Wolf” and Christine Gregoire’s favorite, “Little House in the Big Woods.”

The library is implementing WiFi. There is one drop in the Reference Department. The Friends are being asked to provide funds for the WiFi and the Fairhaven Friends for a drop at Fairhaven. We hope to have it up and running by
May 1st.

Pam passed the Bellingham Public Library In the News report around the table.

Vicky volunteered to help with serving or preparing food for the June 6th Jan Walsh meeting.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – May 22, 2007 will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees