

Special Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Monday, February 23, 2009 - Meeting Room on lower level
07:00 AM - 08:15 AM

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: Pamela Kiesner; Christine Perkins; Iris Kaneshige; Donna Grasdock; Gladys Fullford

Others: Jack Weiss, City Council Liaison, Marilyn Olsen, Friends of the Fairhaven Library

Called to order: Special session was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by Chair, David Edelstein.

Fairhaven Branch Library Repairs and renovations: Pam Kiesner gave recap of February 18 meeting. There is little apparent interest by Council to do the entire project. Given the economic climate the wisest choice would be to only complete the exterior portion. David Edelstein said that it would not be as intrusive to do a seismic upgrade at the same time as the exterior work as it will be to do it in the future.

Jack Weiss asked architect David Christensen and engineer Kris Hamilton of Geiger Engineers to give their pro bono perspective. Without benefit of the official architect and engineer's reports, Kris Hamilton suggested there may be a cheaper way to do the seismic upgrade with horizontal beams and threaded rods that compress the brick together. If the decision is made not to do the seismic rehabilitation now, this could be considered later. FFA architects could be asked why they recommended the shotcrete method.

J. Gordon commented that as a Board member and professional engineer he has a responsibility to recommend that life safety standards should be met. It is an unreinforced masonry building. Shotcrete would keep the bricks from falling off and injuring the public. From a professional standpoint, J. Gordon recommends doing the seismic upgrade. The Board concurred, and will recommend this to the City.

Because of the current economy, however, the Board will recommend at this time going forward only with the complete exterior rehabilitation to prohibit further degradation of the building, landscaping, and front stairway. Landscaping includes regrading slope away from the building and sidewalk rehabilitation. The Board unanimously recommends seismic support as soon as possible. Public safety is the big concern. Vicky Marshall asked Pam Kiesner to let staff know how the Board feels about the importance of life safety.

The Library needs to be closed during repair work.

Jack Weiss mentioned that re-stuccoing could require a SEPA determination.

Central Library repairs and renovations: The \$600,000 budgeted for Central Library repairs include replacing entry doors, structural improvements in Circulation area for efficiency, painting and carpeting. This is a list of deferred maintenance items. Being cognizant of the economy we are not asking for more than necessary, and will review carefully again the list of Central Library needs.

Communications: John Servais letter to City Council, Mayor Dan Pike and John Carter. Letter and handout from February 18 meeting are included in Board packet.

Rules of Conduct: Security issues related to loitering and intimidation were discussed at the last Board meeting. The Board also discussed a no smoking policy on library property. The City Attorney believes

there is no problem with instituting a no smoking policy on the library block. The Parks Director has no problem with a ban as it relates to the park property behind the Central Library. Smoking is permitted in the right of way and on sidewalks beyond 25 feet from doors and windows but nowhere else on library property. Public Works does not recommend providing an alternate smoking area. They are also ready to put speakers outside.

David Edelstein commented while we are cognizant of people's rights, the comfort and safety of patrons on their way into the library trumps aggressive or obnoxious behavior.

It was suggested to add "or property" to second bullet of item 5 in the policy. (Failure to vacate building or property upon request.)

Security Attendants enforce the rules of conduct. If it is out of the realm of staff, the Police are called. If smoking is eliminated, there is less reason to hang out. The no smoking policy includes Fairhaven and all library property.

Faye Hill made the motion to approve the revisions to the Rules of Conduct. Vicky Marshall seconded. The motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees