

Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees
Tuesday, November 20, 2012 - Meeting Room on lower level
03:30 PM - 05:06 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: David Edelstein, Marilyn Mastor, Faye Hill, J. Gordon and Rachel Myers

Board Members Absent:

Library Staff: Christine Perkins and Wendy Jenkins

Others: Stan Snapp, City Council Liaison, Kathie Wilson, Friends of Bellingham Public Library President, Nicole Oliver, I.T. Project and Training Manager, Tina Pham, Western student

Call to order and introductions: Regular session was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chair, David Edelstein.

Approve/modify agenda: No changes.

Public comment: Tina Pham introduced herself as a Western student.

Consent agenda: Marilyn Mastor moved to approve the October 16, 2012 minutes and the October 2012 performance and activity measures and financial reports. Faye Hill seconded. Motion carried.

Trustee education: City of Bellingham's Performance Measures: Nicole Oliver, I.T. Project and Training Manager for the City of Bellingham provided an interactive demonstration of the City's website Performance Measures. In 2009, City Council developed nine Legacies and Strategic Commitments for Bellingham for the next 20 to 50 years. The Performance Measures were developed to provide a consistent measure of how well the city is doing in fulfilling the Legacies and Strategic Commitments. There are 85 city-wide metrics, two of which are library related: Hours Library Open and Number of Annual Visitors. Christine pointed out that, though the Library only has two metrics in the Performance Measures, the Library plays a role in 8 of the 9 Legacies and Strategic Commitments (all except for Clean, Safe Drinking Water).

The Performance Measures are a great information tool. Nicole added that departments can create their own scorecard on the website and the City is considering hosting other organizations' (such as the School District) scorecards.

Interlocal Agreement: Bellingham Public Library – Whatcom County Rural Library District Mutual Extension of Borrowing Privileges and Services, 2013: There is one change, from prior years, on the 2013 Interlocal Agreement. A paragraph has been added that states:

Collection of Fees or Fine Revenue. It is agreed that fees or fines are determined by the library location where items are checked out. It is further agreed that whichever entity (City or County) collects the fee or fine revenue, that entity retains the fee or fine revenue.

This has been current practice for years, but has never been stated in the Interlocal Agreement. Marilyn Mastor made a motion to approve the agreement as written. Faye Hill seconded. Motion carried.

Strategic Planning: Christine thanked everyone for attending the Stakeholder meeting at Fairhaven Branch on November 1. Each library department is now working on goals and objectives for each Strategic Directions. Hopefully, these will be ready for approval in January.

Whatcom READS! 2013: Christine handed out copies of *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson, this year's choice for our annual Whatcom READS! one book project. She suggested everyone read it and pass it along to someone else. This year there are about 300 free-range copies, fewer than in previous years. There will be a full calendar of events including a Pickford Theatre showing of the movie, panel discussions and there may be a tea ceremony supported by a grant from the Japan Foundation of Los Angeles.

2013 City holidays & library closures: Included in the packet is a list of the City of Bellingham holiday & library closures.

2013 regular Library Board of Trustees meeting schedule: A draft of next year's Board meeting schedule is included in the packet for the board to review. Christine asked if the board would like to continue starting the meeting at 3:30 p.m. or if they would like to return to a 4:00 p.m. meeting start. After discussion it was decided to stick with 3:30 p.m. for now and adjust later if need be.

ALA Midwinter Conference: Christine reported that the American Library Association hosts 2 conferences a year. The main conference is held in the summer. The Mid-Winter conference is coming up in January and will be held in Seattle. Many groups and book prize committees hold their annual meetings during this conference. National library vendors display their wares in a huge Exhibit Hall. There will also be a Trustee Reception on Saturday, January 26 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. All trustees are invited to attend.

Board member's report: Faye reported the WCLS Board meeting is being held next week.

Rachel reported she is now working with Whatcom Community Foundation, helping to finish fund raising for the Ferndale Library. In this capacity, she met with a business leader in Ferndale and was alarmed to discover this person did not see herself as a library user, nor did she understand the value of a library to the community. It turns out the person's daughter uses the library for meetings and her father used the library to learn how to use a computer. Because she doesn't check out books, she thinks she doesn't use the library. Rachel sees this as a good wake-up call – we cannot assume people understand the value of a library.

In response to a trustee question regarding BPL's stance on viewing pornography on public computers, Christine responded that we do not use filters because they block things that should be viewable. This is a public setting, with cramped quarters and no actual privacy, so if a patron reports, or staff observes, offensive viewing going on, we let them know that it is inappropriate in a public setting and request they log off.

If the library was asked to add something controversial to the collection, such as *Playboy* magazine, we would refer to our Collection Development policy before making a decision.

Occasionally the library is asked to remove something from the collection. We have the person fill out a Request for Reconsideration form. Pam, Beth Farley (responsible for Collection Development) and one other librarian will read the item, consult the Collection Development policy and then respond to the request.

City Council liaison report: Stan reported Council is struggling with budget discussions. Social programs that are slated to be cut are submitting signed petitions and attending council

meetings to state their cases. The Council has one more presentation meeting, then Council members will begin deliberations. The Library has not come up as a contentious issue.

Library Director's report: Christine pointed out that Pam included an article, *Trust in Your Trustee*, in the packet.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – December 18, 2012 at the Central Library, 210 Central Ave, Library Board Room – at 3:30 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees