

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees**  
**Tuesday, December 18, 2012 - Fairhaven Library Fireplace Room**  
**03:30 PM - 05:50 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.

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**Board Members Present:** David Edelstein, Marilyn Mastor, Faye Hill, J. Gordon and Rachel Myers

**Board Members Absent:**

**Library Staff:** Pamela Kiesner; Christine Perkins; Beth Farley; Bethany Hoglund; Jennifer Lovchik; Colleen Morse; Margaret Ziegler and Wendy Jenkins

**Others:** Stan Snapp, City Council Liaison, Kathie Wilson, Friends of Bellingham Public Library President, Joan Airoidi, WCLS Director

**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:** David welcomed Pam back. Kathie Wilson reported another successful book sale with proceeds over \$11,000. The Friends decided to increase the Scholarship Fund for staff development from \$1000 per year to \$2,500 per year. They also provided a major donation to the materials fund – \$10,000 for Adult Fiction and \$10,000 for Large Print books.

**Consent agenda:** Faye Hill moved to approve the November 20, 2012 minutes and the November 2012 performance and activity measures and financial reports. Marilyn Mastor seconded. Motion carried.

**Library Board transitions:** Congratulations were made to J. Gordon for his reappointment to a second term. Pam thanked him for his continued service to the Library.

David Edelstein nominated Faye Hill as Chairperson for 2013. Rachel Myers seconded. Motion carried. Faye Hill nominated J. Gordon as Vice-Chairperson for 2013. David Edelstein seconded. Motion carried.

**Staff recognition:** Christine Perkins introduced two of our long-term staff members – Colleen Morse and Jennifer Lovchik. Colleen has been with the Library for 35 years, primarily in the Outreach department – a service she cares deeply about. In her position she has met and served hundreds of people who cannot get to the library. Colleen thanked the Board and Council for supporting the Outreach program.

Jennifer has worked for the Library for 15 years, starting as a page, earning her Master's degree in Library and Information Science, and currently serving as the Teen and Web Services Librarian. Under her watch, teen programming has consistently grown – there were over 200 attendees at last year's BA~CON Conference. Jennifer thanked the Friends for helping with the cost of programming.

**Artwork donation:** Deryl Walls, the Executor for Guy Anderson's estate, contacted the library and stated that he would like to donate one of Anderson's works to the library – an 8' x 9' oil painting titled *Ancient Book*. Margaret Ziegler reported that this is a major piece of artwork. Anderson is a significant artist who is recognized as one of the masters of Northwest art with

pieces in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Museum of Northwest Art, Seattle Art Museum, Portland Art Museum and many others.

Pam commented that owning artwork poses interesting challenges for a library which usually doesn't have environmental controls as a museum might. The Library Board will want to consider many issues when making the decision to accept this significant gift for our current building and a new facility. The RCW gives the Library Board the authority to accept a donation; the Bellingham Arts Commission and the Whatcom Museum could be of help.

David asked if this would be an unrestricted gift and also what would be the path to dispose of the gift if, in 1 or 100 years, we no longer want to take care of it. Pam is meeting with Deryl Walls in January to discuss the terms of the donation. Faye asked about the vulnerability of the painting, considering we do not have atmospheric controls. Margaret answered that currently it is not in an atmospheric controlled environment. Beth added that Deryl told her it would be reframed before it was donated.

The Board is in favor of accepting the gift once we find out if it is an unrestricted gift. It was also suggested that it would be good to have all Library artwork inventoried and appraised. Pam will talk with Patricia Leach from the Museum about this and about the Guy Anderson painting.

**2013-2014 library budget review:** The 2013-2014 budget was passed by City Council. Pam reported no additional changes were made to the Library's budget. Changes from the 2012 budget include a \$25,000 increase for materials; reimbursement funds for Barkley Branch operating costs; and funds to replace outdated computers and software. No personnel requests were approved in the 2013 budget. We will look for that possibility in the future in order to open more hours.

**Municipal Library District legislation:** Included in the board packet is the draft for the Municipal Library District legislation that Spokane Library Director Pat Partovi is proposing. Pam asked the board to consider officially supporting this legislation so that she can send it to City officials to see if the City would support it on their legislative agenda. After discussion, it was clarified that support would only enable the legislation – put a tool in the City's toolbox – and that it does not imply a commitment on the Library or City's part. Faye Hill moved that the Board support this legislation. Marilyn seconded. Motion carried.

**Strategic planning update:** Pam reported that individual departments are currently working on goals and objectives to complete the Strategic Plan. Pam is planning on presenting it to the Board at January's meeting.

**2012 accomplishments and 2013 goals:** Board members brainstormed on major accomplishments for 2012 and goals for 2013.

Accomplishments included:

- Strategic planning, including the Stakeholder Retreat, Steering Committee meetings, Open Houses, and the second Stakeholder Meeting.
- The online survey of library users – David pointed out we have the responsibility for long range planning, but also are responsible for every day we open the doors.
- Some trustees met with individual Council members, opening discussions between the two groups. Stan added that the City is currently evaluating all of their facilities.
- Pam reminded the Board they worked hard on the budget. It was a great, bold suggestion to include the materials increase and they were willing to ask for additional staff resources as well.

Goals included:

· Prioritizing the goals developed in the Strategic Plan. J. suggested that when the plan is solidified, it would be appropriate to assemble committees and develop steps to accomplish the objectives and goals. Christine added that staff are working on that.

- Getting the Dodson Room re-carpeted and repainted.
- Getting the exterior of the Library repainted.
- With David's Board tenure coming to a close at the end of the year, it is a good time to consider the process of recommending the next board trustee. Pam explained there is a form that is available in the Mayor's office. Last time, Pam and two board members reviewed the forms, considered and/or met with the nominees, then forwarded a recommendation to the mayor. Pam and the board will take into consideration the goals for the next five years and the chemistry of the current Board.
- Pam asked the trustees to suggest topics or issues they would like to discuss in 2013 so she can put together a calendar of meeting items. Suggestions included:
  - Ø A joint meeting or social get-together with the WCLS Board, perhaps presenting Strategic Plans.
  - Ø Inviting the Mayor again to get a clear idea of what she is willing to support.
  - Ø Inviting John Carter, Finance Director, close to budget time.
  - Ø Development of the Strategic Plan will suggest topics/people.

**ALA Midwinter Conference:** Pam, Christine and Madeline will be attending the complete conference. Faye, Marilyn and Rachel will be attending the day of the Trustee Reception, Saturday, January 26.

**Board member's report:** Faye passed around the WCLS's Strategic Framework – a loose-leaf packet with a page for each branch that highlights their 4 Strategic Initiatives: Access, Advocacy, Community Building and Early Learning.

Faye also reported that WCLS's Director, Joan Airoidi, is retiring. Joan has been an enormous library player and will be hard to replace. Joan has requested that, rather than hold a retirement party, she would like people to support the Whatcom County Library Foundation. Pam provided Board members with a pamphlet describing how to donate.

Rachel reported that Ferndale Library is now within \$500,000 of reaching their new building goal. They anticipate breaking ground next year.

**City Council liaison report:** Stan reported that Council is through for the year and will reconvene January 7 for their reorganization meeting. Stan is hoping to continue as the library board's liaison. Council is proposing to drop the number of committee members from 4 to 3 so that each committee does not have a quorum of members, requiring decisions to be made by the complete Council. They are also planning on restructuring their meetings.

**Library Director's report:** Pam expressed her appreciation to the Board for a good year – they worked very hard and put in a lot of energy. It was a pivotal year of putting ideas into action.

Christine added that the 5th annual Whatcom READS! is coming right up. This year's book is *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson. There are a series of events planned starting with a panel discussion on the Japanese-American Experience during WWII that is happening Saturday, January 12. A brochure of events will be available shortly including a showing of the movie at the Pickford Theatre (the Limelight) and Guterson speaking here at BPL.

**Meeting adjourned** at 5:08 p.m.

**Next Regular Library Board Meeting – January 15, 2012** at the Fairhaven Branch Library, 1117 12th Street, Fireplace Room – at 3:30 p.m.

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees