

**Special Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees**  
**Wednesday, June 04, 2014 - WCLS Administrative Services**  
**03:00 PM - 06:01 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:** Faye Hill, J. Gordon, Marilyn Mastor, Rachel Myers and Tom Barrett

**Board Members Absent:**

**Library Staff:** Pamela Kiesner and Wendy Jenkins

**Others:** WCLS Trustees: Deb Lambert, Marvin Waschke, Fred Haslam, Lis Marshall, and June Hahn. Carolyn Petersen, Washington State Library Assistant Program Manager, Christine Perkins, WCLS Executive Director, Lizz Roberts, WCLS Community Relations Coordinator, Dana Klootwyk, WCLS Administrative Associate

**Call to order and introductions:** Joint training was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by WCLS Chair Deb Lambert and BPL Chair, Faye Hill.

Carolyn Petersen explained her role at WSL and asked each person to share the memory of receiving his or her first library card. She then charged each trustee to preserve the library experience – of discovery, refuge, wonderment and awe – for future generations.

**Trustee Training by the Washington State Library:**

Orientation for board members: Carolyn reviewed the following:

1. The history of libraries in Washington State
2. The structural differences between city and regional libraries
3. The roles of trustees versus directors/library staff
4. The differences between advisory and governing boards
5. Open Public Meeting Law
6. Board conduct (including conflict of interest, bylaws, dealing with the media, and Interactions with library staff)

Carolyn directed Trustees to the new [Public Library Trustee Reference wiki](#), as well as several other resources and library organizations.

Evolving roles for public libraries: Carolyn asserted that successful service in public life depends upon three "A"s:

1. Authority – deep knowledge of one's community
2. Authenticity – integrity and the caring that comes from careful listening
3. Accountability – knowing what will make a real difference in the community's civic health

Carolyn shared "The Aspen Institute Dialogue on Public Libraries: Association of Rural and Small Libraries Board of Directors Discussion April 22, 2014," which everyone read and discussed within the framework of considering the impact of libraries' evolving roles upon People, Place, and Platform.

Conclusion: Carolyn concluded her presentation with a quote from *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!: Voices from a Medieval Village*, inspiring the trustees to guard the library's connection to the community and life of the mind.

**Meeting adjourned** at 6:01 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees