



Ledding Library Board Meeting Minutes

December 27, 2010

Ledding Library Pond House

Meeting called by: Library Board Chairperson, Mark Docken

Library Board Members present: Mark Docken, Tom Hogan, Colleen Schacht, Kay Sweetland Bower, Ron Rasch and Ed Zumwalt.

Library Board Members absent: Robert Biswas-Diener.

Guest: Milwaukie City Manager Bill Monahan

Library staff: Joe Sandfort

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: Library Board Chairperson Mark Docken called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the November 2010 Library Board meeting were amended and approved.

New business

City Manager Bill Monahan: Mr. Monahan thanked the Ledding Library Board for inviting him to its meeting and gave a brief background of his work experience. Bill stressed that he has had a lifetime involvement with libraries, including his work at the city of Tigard when its new library was built. In addition, Bill served as the city attorney for Milwaukie and has extensive experience in city administration and planning. In reference to the Board's 2010-11 work plan that will be presented to the City Council on January 18, Bill acknowledged that the library does have space-related challenges and that he wants to be helpful dealing with these issues. He went on to say that the library was mentioned in the December 15 City Council Goal Setting Session. The Council will develop a strategic plan in which city infrastructure issues will be addressed. He mentioned that the city does have bonding ability, but that citizens may not be able to afford

increased taxes. Bill then emphasized that the Library Board is on the right track in identifying the library's needs.

Library Board Chair Mark Docken emphasized that the Board is excited about presenting the plan with its recommendations to the Council and asked if Bill had an idea of what a survey and site analyses might cost. Bill said that Tigard Public Library has asked for a branch feasibility study that may cost in the neighborhood of \$10,000. The additional work involved in the Ledding Board's recommendation may raise the cost to between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Library Board member Ed Zumwalt stated that the Harmony Community Campus of Clackamas Community College may someday serve as an excellent site for a Ledding Library branch and an opportunity to partner with other educational institutions. Library Board member Colleen Schacht said that the school administration building on SE Freeman might also be a site worth considering. Bill welcomed these suggestions and said that partnering with another governmental agency is an excellent idea; the overriding goal of this process is to provide the best and most efficient library service to the people of Milwaukie.

The Ledding Will was then brought up. Bill stated that if the city approaches the heirs in an attempt to change provisions in the will, it may lead to problems with future bequests. Mark stated that it is important that the Council be aware of the restriction in the Ledding Will that are related to the present library site and that this restriction could influence its decision on the location of a future library. Mark went on to say that the city attorney's analysis of the will is an attachment that will be provided to the Council as part of the work plan.

Mark stated that a comprehensive survey would be an excellent way to determine the community's feelings on a larger library, adding that federal census information will be current and a valuable asset. Mark then emphasized that a survey would be absolutely critical in accomplishing the goal of a larger library. Ed asked whether or not the Council would be open to the library surveying the community on several issues, including its desire for more space. Although Bill cautioned that he has not discussed a survey with the Council, he felt that it would support the concept. A survey could be presented in several formats, including mail, handouts in the library, the city's website, etc. Ed then stated that he was concerned about the timing of the library's push for expansion – that a segment of the community might feel that the library was asking for too much in difficult economic times. Bill responded that a citizen's committee dedicated to providing more space for the library could help explain the need to the community. In Tigard, the city formed such a committee and found it very helpful. Colleen agreed with Ed, saying that some people in the community might feel that a new library would be too expensive and that the Board and city must be very careful on to how this process is handled. Pointing to Clackamas County in the late 1990's, Ed said that there has been a history of money originally intended for libraries being used for other purposes.

Mark asked Bill's opinion of the Board's draft work plan. Bill said that the plan looked like a good beginning and that the Board and Council will work together productively on this project.

Library Bylaws: Joe asked that the Board review its bylaws. The City Manager had requested that each city board review, and if necessary, change its bylaws on a yearly basis. The Board made one change to the bylaws, replacing the phrase "Nominations and election of officers shall be taken from the floor at the Board's first meeting of the year" with "Nominations and election of officers shall be taken from the floor at the Board's June meeting of each year." This change reflects the Board's current practice. Library Board member Tom Hogan moved that this amendment be accepted and member Kay Bower seconded the motion. The motion then passed unanimously.

Ledding Library Pond House Report: The Board then thanked Kay Bower for her excellent work in composing the Ledding Library Pond House Report. Colleen moved, and Ed seconded a motion that the Report be included as an attachment to the Board's work plan. The motion then passed unanimously. Kay then presented a letter that she had written on behalf of the Board to the Paul Shirey, the city's Fleet and Facilities Director. The letter thanked Mr. Shirey for the completion of the Pond House deck.

Old business

The Lathe of Heaven Workshop: Joe said that Susanna Lundgren had started working on publicity for the Lathe of Heaven workshop. The workshop, which will consist of two segments, will take place at the end of February and the beginning of March.

Library Work Plan: Colleen began the Board's consideration of the draft work plan by pointing out several grammatical and word usage errors in the draft. She then proposed that the phrase "The Library Board recommends that the city of Milwaukie fund" on page four be changed to "The Library Board recommends that the city of Milwaukie fund and undertake." After much discussion, this wording was changed.

Mark asked whether or not there should be language in the plan requesting that the Board schedule a follow up visit in April with the City Council. It was decided to request such a meeting at a later time if necessary.

Kay then asked that the request for a survey be put first in the list of recommendations on page four. The Board agreed with this idea.

Tom and Colleen suggested that the goal relating to the Willamette Reader's Program be left on this year's plan, but to remove it from subsequent plans if no progress is made before June 30, 2011. The Board agreed with this suggestion.

Kay suggested that the phrase “to review the existing facility” be added to the end of the sentence “The City Council schedule a tour of the Ledding Library” on page four. The Board agreed with this suggestion.

Ed then moved that the 2010-2011 Library Board Work Plan be approved as drafted and then amended. Tom seconded the motion. The Board passed this motion unanimously.

Project updates and progress reports

Poetry Series update: Tom presented the update, saying that Jessica Lamb will read her poetry at the Pond House on January 12. Extensive publicity has been distributed to the media for the William Stafford Celebration, to be held at the Pond House on January 15. Oregon Poet Laureate Paulann Petersen will attend the event, at which Stafford’s poetry will be read. Tom then mentioned that open mic events will be held in February and April. Ed said that the First Friday community events will resume in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.