



Ledding Library Board Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2010

Ledding Library Pond House

Meeting called by: Library Board Chairperson, Tom Hogan

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

Absent: Robert Biswas Diener

Library staff: Joe Sandfort

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: Library Board Chairperson Tom Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the May 2010 Library Board meeting were approved as submitted.

New business

Election of officers: Library Board Vice-Chairperson Mark Docken was elected to serve as Chairperson from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Chairperson Tom Hogan was elected to serve as Vice-Chairperson from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. The Board expressed its appreciation to Tom for a very successful chairmanship.

Librarian's Report: Library Director Joe Sandfort began his report by stating the search for a new city manager for Milwaukie is well underway. The job was opened on June 16 and 10 people have applied. It is expected that the position will be filled by the end of September. Joe then reported that the city's FY2010-2011 budget was approved by the City Council at its June 16 meeting. The library's budget includes small reductions in funding available for the purchase of supplies and materials. Staffing levels were not reduced, enabling the library to maintain the hours that it is open to the public. At its July 13 meeting, the city's

Planning Commission will consider the permitting application for the replacement of the Pond House deck. The city has hired a consulting company to evaluate the space needs of each of its facilities. A preliminary visit will be made to the library on July 1. It is hoped that the information gathered from this study can be used in the process that will be used to plan for the future expansion of the library. Joe then said that the Friends of the Library had recently completed a Pond House landscaping project. Local landscape designer Sarah Smith developed the plan which called for the introduction of attractive native plants. The volunteer labor that made this project possible was donated by Kim, Eric, Amber, Jake and Brody Olson and by Clackamas County's Project Payback agency headed by Wayne Curry. The Friends of the Library's 2010 Book Sale was a remarkable success, taking in over \$10,300 in revenue. Joe said that a team of volunteers, headed by Carol Kay, Dorie Crooks and Virginia Sanderson made this year's sale possible.

Library Five Year Plan: Joe recommended that the Library Board consider working on a five year plan for the Ledding Library during the next year. Board member Ed Zumwalt felt that the Board should take on this project, stating that with a new city manager, a developing library district and future staff changes, the library is at a crossroads. Board member Colleen Schacht said that many of the ideas that are in the current one year work plan could be used in the five year plan. The Board felt that Colleen's idea was an excellent one and decided to begin working on the project.

Old Business

Funding of Pond House Repairs: Joe began the discussion of this issue by presenting a summary of the situation. At the May 2010 Board meeting, Finance Director Andy Parks proposed that the Board commit to spending up to \$50,000 in funding from the Library Endowment Fund (LEF) to pay for repairs to the Pond House. Andy argued that the library is the primary user of the house; that assisting the city with Pond House repairs would be a gesture of good will toward the city; and that a Pond House in good repair would provide a good example of responsible management of the library and city facilities. Tom then suggested that each Board member provide his or her opinion on the subject.

Mark began by saying that the Board needs to investigate the viability of the library in its present location. If the library moves in the future to another part of town, the Pond House would become much less important to the library. Mark therefore felt that it would be unwise to spend library money on a facility that may not serve the library's future interests. Mark then stated that the will that left the Ledding property to the city should be examined to determine whether or not the present library building could be used for another purpose if the library were to move to another location. Mark went on to say that they city may not want to remodel the library without a clarified will and title.

Colleen then pointed out that the city has committed to funding repairs to the Pond House whether or not the LEF is used. She continued her statement by saying that the intent of the people who bequeathed the money to the LEF was not to fund Pond House repairs.

Library Board member Ron Rasch did not feel inclined to support the expenditure of the LEF for the Pond House. He did, however, express a positive feeling for the current location of the Ledding Library and felt that the community as a whole supported the library remaining in its current location.

Tom also felt that the library should stay in its current location. The pond, Scott Park and the amphitheater are all assets that draw the community to the Ledding Library. Tom then said that in his opinion, the language in the will as it relates to the use of the building for a library is very clearly written – that if the library moves from its current location, the ownership of the building would revert to the heirs of the Ledding family. The will ensures that the library must be expanded in its current location. Tom then said he could not support a \$50,000 expenditure from the LEF for Pond House repairs, but that a \$3,000 to \$4,000 expenditure would be appropriate.

Library Board member Ed Zumwalt supports the library in its present location. He believes that the library should be the anchor for the north end of town which is mostly residential. He is also a strong believer that a campus of library-related buildings should be developed adjacent to the library. Ed then explained that he could not support LEF monies being used to fund Pond House repairs. He feels that Milwaukie citizens are already contributing a large amount of their property tax bills for library purposes and that facility repairs are a city responsibility.

Library Board member Kay Bower stated that the Library Endowment Fund should be spent on the library building only. She expressed a concern that spending LEF money for repairs sets a dangerous precedent and that future contributors may not want to bequeath money to the library in the fear that it might be used for purposes other than what they had intended. Kay went on to say that the Friends of the Library are the proper vehicle for supplemental funding of Pond House repairs – that the Friends have already spent over \$15,000 for such purposes. This figure includes the recent \$5,000 Pond House landscaping project.

Mark then added that if the language in the will clearly states that the current library building must be used for a library, that he would support negotiations with the Ledding family heirs to change that stipulation in the will.

A discussion then ensued on how best to put forth in the form of a motion a statement that accurately reflected the Board's feelings on this issue. The final language, as developed by the Board and reworked by Tom Hogan is as follows:

In its desire to support the goals and mission of the library and the city, the Ledding Library Board believes that the intent of the Library Endowment Fund is to provide and support library materials and enhancements. The Board therefore does not approve that the Library Endowment Fund be used for the maintenance of the city-owned Pond House or for other similar type maintenance projects. The Board is supportive of the development and maintenance of the Pond House and wants to note that, of items listed on the Pond House projects list, that the Friends of the Library, including Board members, have provided landscaping in the value of \$5,000. The Friends of the Ledding Library have already donated an additional \$10,000 in Pond House improvements and expenses.

Project updates and progress reports

Poetry Series update: Tom reported that the Milwaukie Poetry Committee's third season concluded on June 9 with a successful reading by Paul Merchant. Invitations to potential readers for the fourth season have been sent out. The fourth season will begin on September 15 and will run through June 2011. The Poetry Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 24 in the Scott Park Amphitheater from 2pm to 4pm. Youth open mics will be held at the Pond House throughout the summer. Poetry committee members will take part in the First Friday Arts program on July 2.

General Comments: Ed reported that the feasibility of setting up an "Authors' Corner" at future First Friday events is being investigated.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.