



Ledding Library Board Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2010

Ledding Library Pond House

Meeting called by: Library Board Chairperson, Mark Docken

Board Members present: Mark Docken, Tom Hogan, Colleen Schacht, Ron Rasch, Robert Biswas Diener and Ed Zumwalt.

Absent: Kay Sweetland Bower

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 June 2010 Library Board meeting were amended to clarify Board member Kay Sweetland Bower's position on the funding of Pond House repairs. The following language has been inserted in the minutes of the June 2010 Library Board meeting: *[Kay] did not say Friends was the proper vehicle for supplemental funding of the Pond House. [She] said we needed to recognize their voluntary maintenance of the space in terms of landscaping and furnishing the building, which was largely invisible despite their \$15,000 contribution. [Kay] offered to write [the Friends] a letter, which the Board approved.* The minutes were then approved as amended.

New business

Five year plan: The discussion began with several Board members agreeing that the Ledding Library long range plan, entitled Planning for the Future (PFTF) and completed in 2001, was a thorough and insightful document. Colleen noted that the library is still dealing with some of the issues mentioned in PFTF and found comments of PFTF survey participants especially helpful. Ron then affirmed that PFTF presented a comprehensive plan for library development and asked where the current Board should begin on its plan. Mark stated that he

would like to see the Board spend several meetings in developing a five year plan – a document that would be significantly different from the 2001 long range plan. He went on to say that the replacement or expansion of the current library facility should be the main focus of the five year plan and that Board visits to the Tigard and Wilsonville libraries would be helpful in envisioning a new and more modern facility. Mark would like to see the Board commit to getting a new library built within the next five to six years. Mark added that the *Space Assessment Study* (SAS) currently being conducted by the City of Milwaukie on each of its facilities should provide guidance on how to begin a discussion concerning a new or expanded library for Milwaukie. Ed then said that the SAS meeting held at the library on July 20 was excellent in terms of the quality and quantity of the input given by the attendees to the consultants who conducted the meeting. The discussion then turned to the Ledding will and the restriction in it concerning the use of the current library site. Mark presented the view that from a legal standpoint, the conditions of the Ledding will have been met – that the word “perpetuity” has a special definition when used in a legal sense. Tom then said that to his knowledge of the legal definition of perpetuity, the restrictions in the will would still be in force. Joe stated that he has referred the Board’s concerns with the Ledding will to the City Attorney’s office for clarification. Ed then stated that Milwaukie citizens are very committed to the library staying in its current location. He felt that moving the library to a different location would jeopardize the passage of a future bond measure for a new or expanded library. Ed went on to say that the library in its current location serves as an anchor for the south downtown area and business district. Tom stated that the library’s current location is very popular with its patrons. Mark then added that all issues concerning a new or expanded library should be on the table, including its location. As one possible location for a new library, Mark mentioned the area around *Bob’s Red Mill* – there would be plenty of room for a modern one story library, adequate parking and natural amenities as well. Ed said that he would feel uncomfortable moving that far away from schools. Robert then stated that there would be advantages to moving and to removing the *Ledding* name from the library in that it doesn’t describe the library geographically and can be confused with the word *lending*. Ed said that he very much appreciates Mark’s innovative thinking and his ability to look at the process of building a new or expanded library in its entirety. Robert asked whether or not the plan should deal with programming in addition to facilities issues. Ed and Colleen then both suggested that the Board use the previous one year work plans as a basis for the proposed five year plan and not use the PFTF document for this purpose.

Colleen made a motion that the previous work plans be updated and that the new five year plan have one, three and five year goals.

Ed seconded this motion and it was adopted unanimously by the Board.

Colleen felt that proactively providing the City Council with a five year plan would be a wise strategic move. Mark agreed and said that the plan should not be completed until October and not delivered until November. His reasons for this

timeline are that a new city manager will not be hired until September; that the SAS will not be completed until September and that City Council elections will be held in November. Mark noted that having a five year plan in place that presents a concrete plan for a future facility will be an instrumental piece in the negotiations that will take place when library service areas are discussed in 2011.

Librarian's report: Library Director Joe Sandfort began his report by stating that the search for a new city manager continues. The position closed on July 25 with at least 24 applicants. A public reception will be held for the finalists on September 2 with the final choice made sometime during September. The permit for replacing the deck was unanimously approved by the Milwaukie Planning Commission at its July 13 meeting. Construction of the new deck began in mid July. Organized by library circulation supervisor Nancy Wittig, several library staff, Board members and volunteers took part in the Festival Daze parade on July 24. The library float won first place honors in the parade's *Humorous Division*. Joe then said that the city's website is undergoing a complete redesign and that the library's website will undergo major changes. Librarian Jessalynn Pinsonault is representing the library in this endeavor. Robert suggested that *Google Maps* be used for providing directions to the library on the new website.

Project updates and progress reports

Poetry Series update: Tom reported that the Poetry Picnic, held in the Scott Park Amphitheater on July 24, was a success with 13 readers and over 20 people in attendance. One of the readers was Milwaukie High School student Heidi Balough, who will also help coordinate the Youth Open Mic event on July 28. Robert mentioned that the poetry events have served as important transitions to help children and teens become library users as adults. Tom said that the selection of readers for the fourth season of the *Milwaukie Poetry Series* should be finalized by the beginning of August.

Authors' Quarterly (AQ): Ed reported that 24 people attended the AQ event held on July 22. Ed has recommended to AQ planner Velma Marshall that two authors be featured at each event instead of three. Tom felt that the question and answer session following the authors' presentations was especially interesting. Ed then announced that an *Authors' Corner* area will be featured at the *First Friday* event on August 6 from 6pm until 8pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.