



Ledding Library Board Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2010

Ledding Library Pond House

Meeting called by: Library Board Chairperson, Mark Docken

Board Members present: Mark Docken, Tom Hogan, Colleen Schacht and Ed Zumwalt.

Absent: Kay Sweetland Bower, Ron Rasch and Robert Biswas Diener

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 July 2010 Library Board meeting were approved

New business

Librarian's report: Library Director Joe Sandfort began his report by stating that the hiring process of a new city manager continues. Five candidates for the position will be greeted by the public at Wine 30 on September 2 and then interviewed by various groups on September 3. A sixth candidate is not available to participate on September 2nd and 3rd. However, if the City Council determines this candidate should remain under consideration, arrangements for a similar social engagement and panel interview will be made. It has been estimated that the new city manager will be in place by mid to late October. Joe then said that the Pond House deck is still under construction with significant progress being made. The city attorney's office is now in the process of reviewing the Ledding will. A copy of the entire will has been ordered from Clackamas County and should be received in mid-September. Jan Zumwalt has been hired to work as a Library Aide 1 in the Children's Library. Jan will begin work on September 13 and will replace Safa Ghnaim. Safa requested to be transferred from a 10 hour per

week position to an on call position. Preliminary results from the Space Needs Assessment Study (SNAS) were issued on August 26. These findings recommended that the library be expanded from its current square footage of 13,104 to between 33,095 and 38,468 square feet. Board Chair Mark Docken noticed that the recommended expansion square footage was based on the library's current service area population of 31,000 people. He then reported that the Library District Advisory Committee (LDAC) had been advised that Leding Library's service area would grow by 12,374 people when the new libraries in Gladstone and the Happy Valley areas open. Following the Board's direction, Joe informed the company responsible for the SNAS of these new figures and asked that the square footage needed by the Leding Library be adjusted upwards. Joe concluded his report by saying that the city's new website, of which the library is a part, will be deployed in mid-September.

Discussion of library expansion / relocation: Mark began this discussion by asking for reasons why the current library should be expanded or relocated. Most of the answers centered on a lack of space that restricts efficiency, work flow, and the inability to present programs effectively at the current library. The need for a separate area for technology applications such as public Internet stations; for a separate area for young adult collections and programs; for meeting rooms and study areas; for more space for parking and larger and more efficient work areas for library staff were all mentioned. Mark expressed his feeling that the Leding Library in its current location cannot be expanded to the size needed to serve its current and/or future service areas. He said that adequate parking for the library presents an additional obstacle that cannot be overcome. Board member Ed Zumwalt stated that the Board is an advisory body with the authority to recommend action to the City Council and should do so in a very strategic and clever manner. Mark then shared Board member Kay Bower's letter of August 25 with the group for discussion. Board Member Tom Hogan stated that the Leding Library Foundation (LLF) must be included in the process of funding a new library. Ed agreed, mentioning that other sources of funding can be used as well.

Joe stated that all options of procuring a larger library must be considered, including expansion at the current site. He then said that the community has strong positive feelings about the Leding Library and its current location and that Milwaukie's citizens must be involved in the process of determining the best option for a future library. Mark said that it is essential to move on library expansion quickly – that Milwaukie must show that it has a plan in place to provide excellent service to its present and its future service areas. Ed then said that the LLF should aggressively pursue funding for a new library and that he would notify LLF Chair Greg Chaimov that the Library Board wants to move forward quickly on this issue. Ed then reported that architect Scott Churchill estimated that a new 35,000 to 40,000 square foot library would cost in the neighborhood of \$8 million to \$9 million.

Mark then stated that the Board should take tours of the Wilsonville, Tualatin, Tigard and West Linn libraries, spending approximately 45 minutes at each building. Mark favors a library that is all on one floor, as it is more efficient and easier to staff. Ed stated that a one floor library would be more expensive due to increased real estate costs. Mark also believes that Bob's Red Mill would be a good site for a new Milwaukie Library in that it would be more centrally located within the service area and that the site has plenty of space and attractive natural amenities. Ed said that the Bob's Red Mill area is too far removed from schools, residences and public transportation. Tom recommended that Oregon City and Gladstone be consulted concerning their plans for new libraries since these two cities are closer to Milwaukie's financial situation than are Tigard, West Linn, etc. Joe expressed his concern about the affordability of a new, large library. The Board then reached a consensus that it would present a library facility proposal to the City Council. The Council would deal with facility location, cost and other political issues.

The discussion then turned to organizing tours of the aforementioned libraries. Mark could transport five people as could Joe. Mark will contact Board members not present at the meeting and will schedule convenient tour times. It was then agreed that the facility issue will be the main component of the five year plan on which the Board is currently working.

Project updates and progress reports

Poetry Series update: Tom reported that the fourth season of the Milwaukie Poetry Series will start on September 8 with a reading by John Witte. A youth open mic event was held on August 25 with 19 people in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.