

Minutes of Langley Library Board Meeting Thursday, March 10, 2011

Present: *Becky Bolte, Monica Guzman, Pam Owen, Shirley Owen, Carol Ryan, Jim Tully, Bob Waterman and Vicky Welfare.* **Absent:** *Rob Harrison.*

The Langley Library board meeting was called to order by Chair Pam Owen at 5:30 p.m.

Pam asked if there were any corrections or additions to the December minutes. There being none, Bob Waterman moved that they be approved. Jim Tully seconded the motion. **The board voted unanimously to approve the December minutes.**

New Business.

Introduction of New Board Members: Monica Guzman, a Langley resident, was introduced. Monica will complete the term of Leah Green who resigned. Monica's term will end in June 2012. Carol Ryan, a resident outside the Langley city limits, was also introduced. Carol was previously a board member. She starts a new term which will end in February 2014 and fills the slot vacated by the retirement of Linda Beeman.

Election of Officers. Pam said that with the retirement of Linda Beeman, the board needs a Secretary and that with the resignation of Leah Green, the board needs a Co-Chair. Pam polled the members to determine interest in either position. Carol Ryan said she would accept the position of Co-Chair. No interest was stated as to the Secretary position. Pam suggested that she would be willing to change positions and be the Secretary; however, that would mean that someone would need to become the Chair. Members were polled to determine interest in the Chair position. There being none, Pam volunteered to take minutes for the March meeting and defer the issue until the June meeting when Rob Harrison could be part of the discussion.

Second Street Improvement Project. Shirley Owen gave a report on the research she has undertaken on this Project. Shirley advised that the Library Board needs to be aware of the Second Street planning project and coordinate with its efforts on street-side improvements. Shirley had discussions with Councilmember Fran Abel and City of Langley Planner Fred Evander and was informed that a full year of design planning is already funded and underway to improve the streetscape along Second Street (not buildings but pavements, parking, plantings) with the goal of defining the downtown core, i.e., the triangle of First Street, Anthes, and Second Street. Funding for construction is being sought. The whole Second Street project will take several years to plan and implement. The library corner is definitely an anchor point in this scheme, probably to be marked by some tasteful signage. These plans suggest that whatever the Board or Friends do outdoors in the near future needs to be considered as temporary or interim measures since the whole Second Street project will take several years to plan and implement. Due to a change in the Planning Department, the new full time planner Jeff Arango will be in charge of this project. Regarding the outdoor library sign, Shirley was advised that we can revise the sign and its positioning, but we cannot change its dimensions. Bob Waterman suggested that we could debate this requirement with the Design Review Board.

As a summary, Shirley said this Second Street project is at an early conceptual design stage and that until the new full time planner Jeff Arango has had an opportunity to progress the project, the Board should put its efforts toward maintenance of the sign and landscape area.

Shirley also discussed an idea of changing the name of the library from “Langley Library” to the Helen B. Coe Public Library in honor of the woman who, after resigning as the Mayor of Langley, became the town’s first librarian, donating the building to be used as a library. Vicky Welfare said that a change like that would pose logistical difficulties for Sno-Isle and, after discussion, it was thought we might be able to add a secondary title which would read: Langley Library, Helen B. Coe Memorial Library.

Pam Owen suggested that one possibility for the Second Street corner would be to add a deck with railings and that the new sign could be secured to the railing which would make it more visible. Bob Waterman stated that a deck would not be in accord with the Historic Preservation guidelines. Further discussion suggested a patio could be considered. Other ideas put forward included moving the otter sculpture to the corner to be more visible; and placing a historic plaque and photo of Helen M. Coe over the bench at the entranceway.

Shirley then suggested that a subcommittee be formed for this project and to report further findings or proposals to the Board at a later meeting. Pam Owen appointed a committee consisting of herself, Shirley Owen, and Monica Guzman. It was also suggested that Fran Abel and Jeff Arango be invited to the June meeting.

Old Business.

Maintenance of the Library Building. Shirley reported that Challis from the Department of Public Works had submitted a report on Library maintenance. The building is still cleaned six days a week; light bulbs have been replaced; and new keyboard holders for the library staff were installed. The check valve for the fire sprinkler system is holding and not leaking air. Due to vandalism at the north side of the library, tree limbs which had been broken were trimmed and debris was removed. The missing ceiling tile inside the library still needs to be repaired and Challis is looking for a suitable replacement tile.

Fran Abel has suggested there is an urgent requirement for a spring clean-up in the landscape. Pruning, raking and stubble removal will take four to six hours. Fran has volunteered to lead the effort in terms of identifying the specific tasks and recommending new plantings if required. A suggestion was made to ask for volunteer help by the Friends of Langley Library. Pam said that the Friends had previously provided funding to have Donita Bishop take care of the maintenance and that Vicky could ask the Friends to fund the maintenance again if it was determined that the City had no funds to pay for it. Shirley volunteered to contact the Department of Public Works to first see if the City could either do the work or pay for the work to be done by an outside contractor.

In discussing the condition of the outdoor sign, Shirley said that Larry Kwarsick had indicated the original sign (circa 1980) had been grandfathered-in as an exception to the code requirements. Bob stated that Rob Harrison may be able to make suggestions for maintenance and preservation of the current sign to last until such time as the final plan for the Second Street project was determined.

Langley Library Branch Manager Report. Vicky gave a report on door count, circulation and upcoming programs. She also reported on the Polaris system which is being phased in to replace the current catalog and check-out system. Polaris should be in full operation about April 2. Until that time there may be some interruption in putting books on hold. Vicky is heavily involved with training staff and the public on the Polaris system and thus the Langley Library renovations are being delayed until the summer.

Sno-Isle Regional Manager Report. Becky reported that the model of service for Langley Library has been determined as twofold: a life-long learning model and a bookstore/browser model. She also stated that Sno-Isle has finished its study of opening hours for each of the libraries and that there will be a minor shift in the opening hours for Langley.

Other Business.

Bob Waterman said an ad hoc committee was looking at parking and asked whether there was a problem for library patrons. Vicky responded that parking in the summer is a problem.

There being no further business, Pam adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Owen,
Chair and Secretary Pro Tem

Our next meeting will be held on June 9th 2011