

## Minutes of Langley Library Board Meeting Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Present:** Linda Beeman, Leah Green, Pam Owen, Jim Tully, Bob Waterman and Vicky Welfare. **Absent:** Becky Bolte.

The Langley Library board meeting was called to order by President Pam Owen at 5:32 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. Leah Green seconded the motion. **The board voted unanimously to approve the December minutes.**

### **New Business.**

Resignation of Diane Watson and Update on New Board Member Status. Pam said that Diane Watson had submitted her resignation via email, and that the board urged her to reapply when she has more time to devote to its service. Shirley Owen was one of two candidates who expressed interest in filling her term. Mayor Samuelson selected her for board service because her experience has included much research done in libraries (and even an early stint assisting a corporate librarian to reclassify documents) and also because of her work on the seawall project with Harrison Goodall. "Plus," Pam said, "she likes libraries."

Pam pointed out that Shirley and she are not related. Shirley's confirmation will be considered by the City Council next Monday. Pam asked if we had any questions. There were none.

### **Old Business.**

**Report on Library Repairs and Maintenance.** Pam talked to Challis Stringer, Head of Langley's Public Works, so that she could understand what roles the Library Board and Friends will play in our upcoming library renovations. Pam understands that the Library Board will not be directly involved with interior remodels.

At the same meeting, Challis gave Pam a list of maintenance priorities. A major goal is landscape work needed to keep plantings from touching the building. Friends will contribute \$200 toward that effort. Challis thought the building had been painted 2-3 years ago, so repainting is not scheduled until 2011-12. Pam suggested board members compare Challis' list with the priorities in Harrison's report. Leah Green asked about Harrison's report on humidity levels in the Library basement. Pam said she understood that nothing crucial is being stored in the basement, so she doesn't know how significant the variations are.

Leah Green asked for clarification about the board's role. Linda Beeman said she thought that we are stewards of the physical building. Vicky Welfare said we are liaisons between

Sno-Isle and the City, even though we are a city entity. Bob Waterman said that occasionally the City asks our advice for issues that go beyond the physical structure of the building well.

Leah suggested that, given that mission, we do a biannual survey of the building's condition. Pam suggested we do a walk around in June and make a final report in September, in advance of the City Council's budget consideration in December. Board members agreed that was a good plan.

**Langley Library Branch Manager Report.** Vicky Welfare distributed copies of her report comparing 2009 activity with 2008. She said there had been increases across the board, especially in program attendance. She thought that resulted, in part, because of the Teen Project in which staff went into community soliciting advice about services needed. Leah asked what sorts of programs were added. Vicky replied that gaming, book reviews and craft programs were a direct result. She said a writing workshop is planned for April, and that circulation is up 6%. People are using the library more than ever.

Vicky said that the island-wide community read features *All Roads Lead Me Back to You*, culminating in an April 28<sup>th</sup> author reading. Poetry night is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> and will include a poetry slam. Leah asked if there was enough room to accommodate everyone at those evenings. Vicky said it was tight, and that the library remodel will include movable low shelving to make more room for attendees.

She said we can anticipate service changes. Beginning in April, patrons will be able to request both DVDs and sound recordings that are not in the catalog. They will also be able to track their requests.

Vicky reported that \$311 worth of books were sold over Mystery Weekend. The door count this year was 799 on Saturday and 396 on Sunday. The library's usual patronage is 200-250 people.

In a new outreach project, library staff are speaking with community leaders and asking for feedback to guide the direction of library services in coming months. Every branch will have a specialty or two geared to their communities.

Building update cost estimates still being obtained, according to Vicky. While the staff's first priority is to replace low shelves with mobile units, they want to have overall plan in place before proceeding. Shirley Owen asked if Visionary Office Furniture mentioned in Vicky's report is a custom shop or if they are retailer for library furniture manufacturers. Pam asked if VOF designs offices as well as furniture. Vicky said she believed they just design furniture. Pam asked how that overall design is being handled. Vicky said Becky and Cheryl are responsible for that.

Leah and Pam both asked about lap top loans being utilized at Coupeville. Vicky said they are for in-library use, and that this is a brand new program.

**Sno-Isle West District Manager Report.** Becky Bolte was unable to attend this evening, but provided the following report: *"I won't make it to tonight's meeting because of a conflict. My report would be about the Coupeville Library; the newly expanded and renovated opened this week on March 8. 800 people visited the first day and made many positive comments. The building has a number of green features such as solar panels, rain gardens, abundant natural light to reduce need for artificial lighting, including use of "light tubes" to bring natural light into the interior of the building. It has more than doubled in size to 6,000 square feet with a meeting room added, an expanded children's room and teen area, a large reading room with a fireplace and views to Penn Cove and walls with popular materials displayed face out by subject, similar to a bookstore. We are also for the first time offering laptops for checkout for use in the library only so that customers can take the laptop to a comfortable spot, or spread out at a table in the meeting room if it is not in use by a group.*

*"As you are driving up the island, I hope you will stop in and take a look around the new Coupeville library. The grand opening is set for Saturday, April 17 at 10 a.m. and of course, everyone is invited."*

**Other Business.** Pam asked Bob to discuss a City Council proposal for annexation into the Sno-Isle system. Currently the City contracts with Sno-Isle for management of the Langley Library. Bob said the idea was to ask voters if they want to pay for library service via property taxes. He said the upside for the City is that the Sno-Isle contract funds – approximately \$44,000 – would revert to City general fund. The City would still own the building and be responsible for its maintenance. That \$44,000 is used mainly for salaries of library employees.

According to Bob, the City would request annexation from the Sno-Isle Library System. If that is agreed to, then the question would be put on the August or November ballot.

Pam asked if our board should get involved. Linda said she didn't see how we came into it. Leah said she understood Bob was asking for our input. Bob said that was correct. He said the City is soliciting opinions from many sources. Leah said she doesn't think ordinary citizens appreciate how broke the City really is, and that she thinks considerable education will be critical to this effort's success. She pointed out that, in the history of libraries worldwide, use has often been a privilege people paid for rather than a right.

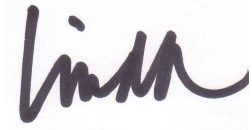
Pam said she would be persuaded of the benefits of annexation if some percentage of the savings could be allocated to maintenance of our building. Vicky pointed out that this also would allow Langley citizens to vote on library levies.

Bob said Mayor Samuelson has reviewed systems in city government. He finds that prices have gone up, but fees have not kept pace. Five City employee positions have been cut, and other employees have taken reductions in hours and pay.

Pam said we would be following this closely. Finally, she asked board member Rob Harrison if we wished to carry on in a new term once the expired term he fills expires in April. Rob indicated he would like to do that.

There being no further business, Pam adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda", written in a cursive style.

LINDA BEEMAN

**Our next meeting will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010**