

Minutes of Langley Library Board Meeting Thursday, September 10th, 2009

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

The Langley Library board meeting was called to order by President Jim Tully at 5:30 p.m. Jim asked if there were any corrections or additions to the June minutes. There being none, he moved that they be approved. Leah Green seconded the motion. **The board voted unanimously to approve the June minutes.**

New Business.

Welcome New Board Members. Jim introduced new members who will be joining us. Rob said he is taking Molly's position because he loves to read. In addition, he works with Gemkow Construction so he knows something about building and is a volunteer fireman. Pam said she's lived in Langley for 10 years and is the current president of Friends of the Library. She thought it would be a great thing to be part of the Langley Library board as well.

Nomination of old section of Library to Langley Register of Historic Places. Linda Beeman, also a member of the Langley Historic Preservation Commission, presented the Commission's proposal to add the old (1921) section of the library to Langley's newly created Register of Historic Places. She distributed copies of the nomination form for inclusion to board members and showed photographs of what the building had looked like in the 1950s. Linda described early Langley resident Helen Coe's involvement in the construction of the library, and her tenure as librarian after being Langley's first woman mayor.

Leah Green asked what the benefits and limitations of a listing would be. Linda said there were tax credits available for approved rehabilitations and maintenance, but that she wasn't certain whether the library, as a city-owned building, paid taxes to the county. She said she would check on that.¹ She said that the interior of the building is not mentioned in the nomination form so that changes to the interior would not be an issue for the Commission. Alterations that significantly impact the exterior of the building would, however, need Commission approval.

Pam Owen asked when the Commission would act on this nomination. Linda said she knew it would be discussed at the October meeting, but that it was not certain that a vote would be taken at that time.

There being no further discussion, **Linda Beeman made a motion that the Library board approve the nomination of the old section of the library to the Langley Register**

¹ According to Debbie Mahler, Langley's Director of Finance, "The City is exempt from property taxes on public property." Larry Cort, Langley City Planning Director, says that means we'll just have to take satisfaction from knowing we've done our part to preserve an important part of Langley's past.

of Historic Places. Pam Owen seconded the motion. The vote was called and was unanimous in favor of the nomination.

Old Business.

Saunders Book Memorial. Jim said he had been unable to find a copy of Marilyn's book for donation to Sno-Isle as a memorial to her service on the board, so we need to consider other options. Linda Beeman asked Vicky for guidance in this matter. Vicky distributed a donation form that is customarily used. It specifies the dollar amount donors are giving and offers guidance about how it should be used.

Leah Green said that she might contact a collaborator of Marilyn's to see if she might have access to copies of Marilyn's book.

Jim asked how we would handle donations. Linda suggested we could each decide what we'd like to contribute. She didn't think it had to be the same amount for each person. Leah said she knows Marilyn would have been thrilled if we donated the latest writing on guided imagery as her memorial. We will review options at our next meeting.

Langley Library Branch Manager Report. Vicky said the statistics showed door count down by 400 from August of 2008, but that circulation has jumped by over 10%. Leah wondered if computer searches by patrons are tracked by the library. Vicky said they were for internal use, and those numbers were part of the annual report.

Vicky also said that fewer children participated in summer reading program this year. She mentioned that the musician chosen for this year's program didn't seem to be as popular with children as prior year's bug or reptile guys. The decrease might also reflect the declining number of children on the South End.

She said that patrons have expressed strong interest in access to DVDs so library staff now devotes an entire wall to them. The library's adult book group selection for October is *The Worst Hard Time* by Tim Egan.

Friends of the Library will welcome back library legend Nancy Pearl on November 10th for her annual best of the previous year discussion.

Children's librarian Jayanne Bixby has been visiting schools and making presentations about the Dewey Decimal system and how to use libraries this fall. Sno-Isle is sponsoring Early Learning Fairs at all branches on September 12th. Leah asked if day care centers are notified of these events. Vicky said Jayanne works from an email list that she believes includes day care centers.

The Friends member's donation of \$63,000 has inspired a good deal of staff discussion on how to best use it according to Vicky. She met with "the powers that be at the service center" who will help prioritize goals of enhancing and modernizing the circulation desk, creating different displays, adding an office for the branch manager, getting rid of long low shelves in the center of the room, etc. On September 28th, Vicky and other staff

members will tour libraries that have done recent renovations. Rebecca Loney, facilities manager for Sno-Isle, will be collaborating on this project as well.

Sno-Isle Regional Manager Report. Vicky spoke for Becky Bolte, who had a conflicting appointment, and reiterated that Sno-Isle's Board of Trustees had decided to move forward with the fall levy for increased funding for the system. She said the board found that the public values their libraries and wants to maintain current services. The board believes there is support for a small levy increase in conjunction with cuts that will happen in any event. The cuts encompass salary freezes and cuts, delaying replacement of the circulation system and a reduction in the materials and equipment budget. Sno-Isle hopes to avoid personnel layoffs, but staff leaving voluntarily will not be replaced.

Leah asked if some of us should write Letters to the Editor in support of the levy, and volunteered to do that herself. Rob Harrison said we will likely be competing for funds with the fire department and possibly the sheriff's departments. Pam said that Whidbey is a well read area, and Vicky said that, historically, libraries have received strong support here.

Other Business. Pam said that Friends of the Library would like preliminary ideas from Vicky for use of their donation early next year. Rob added that carpeting should take place prior to shifts in shelving and displays. Leah suggested that staff look for logjams that inhibit service as a means of prioritizing their goals.

Linda reminded members that new officers should be elected and a work plan developed at the December meeting.

Vicky added that the City of Langley had received a grant for finishing the library basement that is used for storage. The floor is now completed finished, and records can be safely stored there. The library will also recover storage space that the City had previously been using.

There being no further business, Jim Tully adjourned the meeting at 6:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

LINDA BEEMAN

Our next meeting will be held on December 10th, 2009