

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

Present: Linda Beeman, Becky Bolte, Leah Green, Pam Owen, Jim Tully, Bob Waterman and Vicky Welfare. **Absent:** Diane Watson. **Guests:** Mayor Paul Samuelson and Harrison Goodall.

The Langley Library board meeting was called to order by President Jim Tully at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Samuelson greeted board members and thanked them for their volunteer service to the community, giving each member a small gold key pin - a "key to the City."

Jim asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September minutes. There being none, Leah Green moved that they be approved. Bob Waterman seconded the motion.

The board voted unanimously to approve the September minutes.

New Business.

Election of Officers. Jim said he would prefer not to continue as Chair. Leah Green said she will be happy to continue as Vice Chair. Linda Beeman said she would act as Secretary or Chair, but not both. Pam Owen offered to serve as Chair if it didn't constitute a conflict with her position as president of Friends of the Library. Bob Waterman said he thought she could recuse herself from votes, if it appeared there would be a conflict between the two organizations. Rob Harrison commented that he was only two hours into this experience. He said he would be willing to act as an officer at a future time, but thought he hadn't much experience yet. **Having arrived at that consensus, the board voted unanimously to elect Pam Owen as Chair, Leah Green as Vice Chair, and Linda Beeman as Secretary.**

Work Plan for 2010 Activities. Jim stated that the board is required to submit a Work Plan to the City Council at the end of each year, summarizing what we plan to accomplish in the coming year. Linda asked Vicky Welfare if there were any timelines for installation of the new carpet tiles, which was the focus of our last year's plan. Vicky said she and Becky Bolte will meet tomorrow with Sno-Isle's Assistant Director of Community Libraries and Facilities Director to finalize plans for laying the carpet. Pam suggested that, once those plans are complete, she hopes they can be presented to Friends, the City Council and to the board at our March meeting. Pam asked Bob what the City procedures were, and there was some discussion about whether the \$5,000 allocation in last year's City budget is still available for this project. Bob will check on that.

According to Becky, interior painting is another project being contemplated. Pam said that Friends is committed to purchasing the paint. Their legacy gift of \$67,000 is intended to cover that and other interior renovations.

Pam said that other Friends members feel that the entire exterior of the Library needs painting. She asked if that should be included in our request to the City for help with maintenance. Leah believes the City needs to communicate regularly with our board about

its maintenance plans. Bob asked Vicky if she brings maintenance issues to the City's attention, or whether City officials initiate reviews. Vicky said it works both ways, but that she is not aware of any regular maintenance reviews.

Bob also asked Vicky if she is aware of any other outstanding maintenance problems. Becky said perhaps landscaping should be looked at. Bob asked what the Library plans for the upgraded basement. Vicky said she believes they will inherit the space vacated by the City for record storage, but that has not yet occurred. Pam said it would be a perfect space to store the pallets of strip curtains sold to raise funds for library use.

Bob volunteered to speak with Langley Facilities Manager Challis Stringer about these issues.

Maintenance of the Library Building. Our guest, Harrison Goodall, introduced himself as a person who has fallen in love with Langley. He is also an architectural conservator and member of the Langley Historic Preservation Commission. As part of the Commission's consideration of the old section of the Library for the Langley Register of Historic Places, he surveyed the physical building and made note of some issues that need attention.

Harrison said the Library was a special focus for Langley and needs careful preservation. His 6-page survey (appended to these minutes) begins to address that. He feels an ongoing maintenance plan would also be beneficial.

Bob said that, while the Historic Preservation Commission focuses mainly on the exterior of historic buildings, he thinks the City has a responsibility to maintain the Library as a Register property in its current condition at a minimum. He hopes we will review Harrison's survey and determine what might be done by volunteers and what work would require professional attention.

Pam said we might prioritize the survey projects to determine what needs to be done in what time frame. The roof, for instance, has leaked along the east side according to Vicky. Pam thinks the City Facilities Manager should take a serious look at prioritize maintenance projects and then obtain estimates for needed work. "We need the next step," Pam said. "Someone needs to find out when the roof was last replaced and what warranties might still be in effect."

Harrison voiced some concern about stirring up hornet's nest with City officials. Leah said this shouldn't be confrontational situation. Rather, we should stress we want to collaborate in achieving our mutual goals. Bob thinks we should ask Challis to work with us to develop a plan for maintenance.

Rob hopes we can work with local professionals to see if they will volunteer their time and expertise on needed repairs, which will help us with insurance and warranty issues. Harrison reinforced the point that this is an important building. He likened it to a 1929 Model T Ford and asked who we would want to restore such an automobile. He believes that we need to pay careful attention to who does the work and how it is completed.

Leah made a motion that it would be appropriate, in accordance with the Langley Historic Preservation ordinance, to approve the maintenance concepts contained in Harrison's survey regarding the historic part of the library and to ask the City to work with the Library Board to create a maintenance and preservation plan for 2010. Rob Harrison seconded that motion. There was some further discussion about the benefits of an ongoing maintenance plan. Jim called the question, and the board voted unanimously to approve it.

Old Business.

Saunders Book Memorial. Linda said that Vicky had been nice enough to send along donation form for a book donation commemorating our late colleague Marilyn Saunders. Linda had completed the form and initiated the process by writing a check to Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation for the purchase of a book or books to be given in Marilyn's memory. Leah spoke about a psychologist friend who actually has a copy of Marilyn's book. She said it was helpful to see, because it was really an unbound chapbook that would not withstand the rigors of library use.

Leah said other authors have written recently about guided imagery in working with addiction and other psychological areas, and she has made a couple of suggestions about those selections to Vicky. Becky and Vicky agreed they would request books on guided imagery in psychology and would hold the donation form until other board members had an opportunity to send checks.

Langley Library Branch Manager Report. Vicky said Langley Library's door count is still dropping, but circulation is increasing. She said we have fewer patrons, but each person is checking out more material. Registrations are up as well according to Vicky. She has been told that some local teachers are requiring their students to obtain library cards, which may account for some of the registration increase. Downloads are now possible for home library users as well – a contributing factor to lower door counts.

Leah thinks many people are more conscious of their driving habits, so may be checking out more books in order to make fewer trips.

Vicky reported that the Whidbey Island Writers Association *Spirit of Writing* contest winners will read from their work on January 28th at 7 p.m. She said the Nancy Pearl event on November 10th was, again, a great success. Sno-Isle action teams are assessing

which programs are most valuable, and their surveys indicate that Nancy is wildly popular.

Vicky said staff has re-sorted the adult DVD selection by genre and conducted a massive relabeling project. The Sno-Isle Web page continues to grow and change. Some of the most visited sections include job searches and H1N1 virus research.

In late September Library staff participated in the community Children's Day event. They saw 220 children and 142 adults.

The November levy lift initiative passed with 53% of vote in the region. In light of the election and Sno-Isle's strategic plan, Vicky said the library is looking for ways to streamline library services. They are asking what the community wants and hope to begin conversations with community leaders.

A copy of Vicky's report is appended with these minutes.

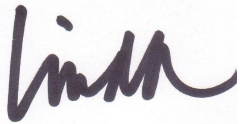
Sno-Isle Regional Manager Report. Becky said that the Freeland Library is installing a rain garden tomorrow – a collaboration of Freeland Friends, Sno-Isle and the Whidbey Island Conservation District. Fifteen volunteers are coming out to help with the planting, which will help protect Holmes Harbor from runoff.

Sno-Isle is inviting metal artists to an event at the new Coupeville Library on Saturday at 10 a.m. to hear the architect's description of the building and solicit proposals for metalwork pieces over the entry. The submission deadline is January 5th.

Other Business. There was no other business.

There being no further business, Jim Tully adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



LINDA BEEMAN

Our next meeting will be held on March 11th, 2010