

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 15, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Spokane Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at the Downtown branch of the Library.

Present were:

MEMBERS

- Mr. Jim Kershner, Chair of the Board
- Ms. Mary Starkey, Vice-chair of the Board
- Ms. Lara Hemingway
- Mr. Nathan Smith
- Mr. Casey Linane-Booey IV

COUNCIL LIASION

Ms. Kate Burke

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Mr. Andrew Chanse

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:32pm by Mr. Kershner.

VISITORS

- Rae-Lynn Barden
- Carole Shook
- Brenda Kochis
- Charles Hansen
- Sally Chilson
- Bre Pritle
- Rob Roose
- Caris O'Malley
- Sarah Bain
- Alan Wagner
- Ellen Peters
- Vanessa Strange
- Eva Silverstone
- Karl Johnson
- Jill Eyres
- Mark Dailey
- David Schnee
- Steven Clark
- Tara Neumann
- Natalie Hilderbrand
- Joan Medina

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Kershner moved public comment to follow the G4/Integrus presentation.

APPROVAL OF April 17, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Linane-Booey IV moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Starkey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR April 2018

Ms. Starkey moved to approve the bills and contributions. Ms. Linane-Booey IV seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCAL REPORT

Ms. Brown submitted the financial report and began by stating we closed the month of April with over two million in reserves which equals 58 days in operating cash. She stated the big highlight for this month was the significant amount of contributions from our supporters, the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation. Ms. Brown shared we are fully staffed in the business office with the hiring of Minnie Huang. She thanked Laura Wrixon for her hard work and maintaining a high level of professionalism during the transition. She noted it is budget time again and she will be keeping the board updated on progress.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Mr. Chanse highlighted the large gains in new library cards and noted our partnership with Spokane Public Schools has helped us to achieve higher numbers. We continue to see an increase in Wi-Fi usage, increased checkouts in digital materials, but have experienced a slight drop in circulation overall. Mr. Chanse noted an error in the Hillyard library's overall circulation and provided the corrected number to the board. He went on to state our online gate count comparison to last year has not normalized to actual numbers due to the internal testing that occurred which falsely inflated the number. Mr. Chanse stated Indian Trail saw a gate count increase, Shadle experienced a minor drop and South Hill saw a large increase in usage. Ms. Hemingway asked if the increase at South Hill was due to the addition of Sunday hours and Mr. Chanse stated yes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Chanse submitted his written report and noted the town hall and open house events have concluded. He stated he attended a meeting of district one leadership that included neighborhood council chairs to discuss potential library design work and partnerships. The month of May kicks off our 'Asian American and Pacific Islander Month' and we have numerous programs scheduled throughout the month. He noted we had another successful Citizen Hall of Fame event which was at the Downtown Library for the first time. Mr. Chanse stated, with the help of our Friends, we have purchased a new online movie platform around educational films called 'Kanopy'. Mr. Kershner noted how great the documentary collection is on Kanopy and the robust collection of films. Mr. Chanse stated teachers have been asking for the service as we have public performance rights with the product, which they can use in their classroom.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

None

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Mr. O'Malley submitted the written report and began by highlighting the 'Food for Fines' promotion. He stated we will be capitalizing on our new partnership with Spokane Public Schools to promote summer reading. Mr. O'Malley noted the amount of robust media coverage we have received in the past month.

NEW BUSINESS

12a. Policy on Library Cards

Mr. O'Malley presented the policy and highlighted the proposed changes. He stated we are steering language away from the physical card in order to encompass all users and we removed some redundancies. The resident status has been updated which is the substantive change; extending the definition to include businesses in the county as they can gain access with an individual card as a county resident. Mr. Kershner asked if we make any revenue from county cards and Mr. O'Malley said no we do not. Mr. Smith asked if it was still necessary to charge any fees to county residents. Mr. Chanse said we would need to discuss any changes to that portion of the policy with the county library system. Mr. Smith asked if we still ask for all forms of identification to issue a card. Mr. O'Malley said no and added that is governed in a separate procedure and we are moving toward the honor system. Mr. Smith moved to approve the policy as presented. Ms. Starkey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12b. Group 4 Presentation

The design consultants, G4 and Integrus, introduced themselves to the board and presented their initial data and design concepts. Mr. Kershner asked for clarification regarding the preliminary figures presented. Mr. Schnee stated an escalation was attached to match 2020 dollars and they have not included the City's ongoing capital maintenance plan as well as other creative options. Ms. Eyres said numbers include not only include construction, but technology, design and furniture needs as well. Mr. Schnee stated land purchases are not included in the estimate or funds from moving existing facilities.

After public comment, Mr. Kershner asked for feedback from the board. Mr. Linane-Booey IV stated he liked all the options and wanted to move forward with initial concepts. Mr. Smith sensed they needed to provide more direction on the South Hill ideas and Mr. Linane-Booey IV wants more data on the South Hill options. Ms. Hemingway commented she has already been contacted by a group who will oppose the taking of any green space and she too would like further information. She stated she thinks it is best to leave our options open at this phase. Mr. Linane-Booey IV asked what would happen to the current Eastside library if we were to move it. Mr. Chanse noted the lack of a master plan for the neighborhood and campus and we need to have further engagement with the community before we decide what to do with the building. Mr. Kershner stated he does not believe the South Hill community wants a new library and he

understands the East Sprague site has serious issues. Mr. Schnee stated a new Eastside may not alleviate the crowding issues on the South Hill branch and we could be pushing current issues further down the road.

Mr. Schnee noted again why the current South Hill site cannot be expanded or have a second floor. Mr. Dailey noted the town hall meeting to move the South Hill library to its current location 20 years ago was met with the same negative feedback. Ms. Hemingway asked for clarification on the data indicating that a 30,000 sq. ft. Eastside library would not alleviate the crowding issues at the South Hill branch. Ms. Shook asked how we track customer data regarding checkout patterns and Mr. O'Malley stated its by household and library card. Ms. Starkey asked about the rollout of projects and what timelines we were considering. Mr. Chanse stated we need to be very clear with the voters on our plan and we already working with the bond counsel on developing a structure. The trustees thanked the consultants for their presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Carol Shook thanked the board for investing in the people of Spokane and stated she lives in the East Central community and wants to keep the East side library in its current location. She would like a second floor added with an elevator or would be fine with moving it to Liberty Park.

Bre Pritle provided the trustees with a handout and stated she grew up in the neighborhood and has used the library since it opened. She provided some statistics about the poverty in the area for the 99202 zip code. She stated herself, as well as her neighbors, do not like the relocation idea on Sprague. Mr. Kershner asked both Ms. Shook and Ms. Pritle if they liked the Liberty Park idea and they stated they do, but would prefer it stay at its current location.

Charles Hansen is a volunteer with the genealogical society and did an informal poll of the group about the possibility of a pedestrian area on Spokane Falls Blvd and they were in favor. He also stated the Principal of Shaw Middle School has been attending the neighborhood council meetings and sharing his excitement for the potential partnership.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADDITIONAL ITEMS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

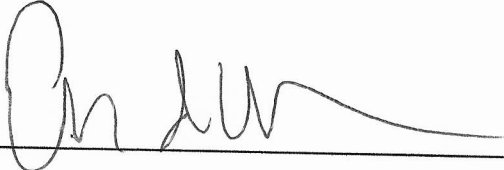
None


NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, June 19 at the Downtown Library.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:24pm.

Secretary 

Chairman, Board of Trustees  Date 6-19-17