

WEBER COUNTY LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

Date: February 2, 2016

Board Members

In Attendance: Scott Spencer
James Ebert
Brent Innes
Kathleen Jensen
Tom Taylor
Judith Jones

Board Members

Excused: Spencer Stokes

Others in

Attendance: Lynnda Wangsgard, Library Director
Scott Jones, Assistant Library Director
Julia Valle, Library Business Office Manager
Bryan Baron, Deputy Weber County Attorney
Evelyn Bertilson, Friends of the Library
Marcia Harris, Library Development Board
Tom Brennan, EDA Architects
Kim Kunz, EDA Architects
Cathy McKitrick, Standard-Examiner

Spencer called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Spencer asked for an update concerning the January 20th focus group.

Wangsgard noted the meeting was advertised in both English and Spanish and, because all meeting rooms in the Main Library were then closed, it was held at the LDS Spanish-speaking ward. The meeting was conducted in Spanish and translated by Carlos Camacho. There was an excellent turnout. The Young Architects group documented the discussion and videotaped several interviews that will be used in preparing parameters for the design competition.

Spencer called for additions or corrections to the February 2, 2016, minutes. Hearing none, he accepted a motion from Taylor, and a second from Jensen, that the minutes be approved as presented. All voted aye.

Director's Report:

The year-end statistical report reflected decreased usage in some categories, resulting from a reduction of space available for public services, as the Southwest Branch and Main Library were prepared for renovation. In addition to closing all meeting rooms, public service at the Main Library had been disrupted during the last four months of the year as collections, seating, and equipment were moved and rearranged from three floors onto one. Although usage numbers were lower in some areas than were the totals for 2014, the statistics for those services that were not compromised by shutdowns were strong when compared to the previous year.

Surplus Property Sale. Valle reported on the surplus property sale. Almost \$25,000 was received for the items advertised to the public. Much of what was sold had been in System storage for several years and was no longer needed. Library employees also worked to make available to the public items from the Main Library that would have otherwise been lost during the demolition process required for renovation. These items included things such as slatwall, built in cupboards and cabinets, sinks, and appliances. County departments were given first opportunity to "shop" the sale.

Lester Park Community-Wide Open House. The Young Architects group working on the Lester Park project had scheduled an open house for 7-8 p.m., February 18, at James Madison Elementary School. This forum will give people an opportunity to react to the suggestions made by those attending focus groups held earlier during the month.

Dedication Program/Open House Plans for Southwest Branch Headquarters Library, 2 p.m., February 27, 2016:

Board members discussed a proposed outline for the Southwest Branch dedication and welcome of area residents during an open house to follow. Harris announced the donation of a baby grand piano in honor of Marie Irvine. The piano will be played during the dedication by Margaret Rostkowski. In addition, the Stewart Foundation had made a significant contribution to the Children's Library which will also be recognized.

The accepted program outline included:

Dedication

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| 1:00 p.m. | VIP tour planned by Weber County Commission, led by Prescott Muir Architects |
| 1:30 p.m. | Library doors open to general public |
| 1:55 p.m. | Prelude, in memory of Marie Irvine, offered by Margaret Rostkowski |
| 2:00 p.m. | Welcome, Scott Spencer, Chair, Library Board of Trustees |
| | Introductions |
| | Remarks |
| 2:15 p.m. | Acknowledgement of Library Building Team, by Lynnda Wangsgard |
| 2:20 p.m. | Introduction and Remarks, by Commissioner James Ebert |
| 2:30 p.m. | Introduction of Speaker, Senator Ann Millner |
| 2:35 p.m. | Dedicatory Speech, Alan E. Hall |
| 2:55 p.m. | Musical Number by Roy High School |
| 3:00 p.m. | Ribbon Cutting, by High School Student Body Officers and Officials |

Open House

3-6 p.m. Meet the Artists/Exhibitors, Hyunmee Lee, Suzanne Storer, Meggi Troili & Christopher Henderson
Student Art & Performances, Coordinated by Nancy Crocker, North Park Elementary School
Student Storytelling, Coordinated by Kathy Gambles, Friends of the Library
Poetry Slam, Coordinated by Margaret Rostkowski
Arts & Crafts, Coordinated by Library Youth Services Team
Issuance of Library Cards, Coordinated by Library Support Services Team
Demonstrations, Library Adult, Young Adult, & Children's Services Teams
Walkabouts, Led by Board Members, Friends, Library Employees

Negotiations/Approval of Main Library Asbestos Abatement Contractor:

Proposals from those who qualified to bid on the asbestos abatement and general demolition of the Main Library had been evaluated and reference interviews conducted. The interview committee, composed of Kevin McCleod, Robert Wenzel, Lynnda Wangsgard, Tom Brennan, Scott Jones, and Kevin Wilson, recommended contracting with Thermal West Industrial, the low bidder. Brianna Sederholm, County Purchasing Director, sat in on the interviews and validated the process.

Spencer asked about the schedule for beginning abatement.

Brennan responded that March 1st is the tentative start date. The work will be done in four phases with the bulk of the abatement and demolition completed during the first three months.

Wangsgard had prepared a draft contract that was being reviewed by Baron. The contract was also being scrutinized by the Board's third party consultants, EDA Architects (Tom Brennan) and Western Technologies (Robert Wenzel).

Wangsgard asked the Board to authorize Spencer to execute the agreement, subsequent to incorporation of recommendations from the two consultants and approval by legal counsel.

Taylor moved that Spencer be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the Board, once it was reviewed by consultants and approved by Baron. Ebert seconded the motion. Spencer asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote. All voted in favor of the motion.

Overview of North Branch Construction Plans/Documents:

Brennan, EDA Principal Architect, introduced Kunz, who was assigned responsibility for developing the North Branch expansion and renovation plans.

Kunz briefly reviewed progress made on the drawings.

Brennan stated the project could be ready to bid in six or seven weeks. EDA had submitted design development documents to City of North Ogden the previous Friday for a staff review.

Brennan reviewed options for parking, including adding an additional row on the north side of the Library to expand the existing lot. So doing would increase the capacity of the lot from 23 to 33 stalls. At a previous meeting with City officials, Brennan had suggested that if an additional row could be extended all the way to the east, in front of the City's public safety building, the capacity could be increased from 54 to 80. In addition, moving the dumpster to the rear of the Library would free up two additional stalls.

A new entry plaza was proposed on the north side of the Library accentuating the Branch as a civic building and creating opportunities for the installation of public art. Other site changes included a reading garden on the south side.

The new public entrance will connect an outdoor plaza and seating to an indoor café and lounge area. Extraneous walls on the main floor will be removed and the expanded space made available for soft seating, reading, and study areas. An elevator will offer easy access to the lower level, and a translucent staircase with a large skylight will allow natural light to fall into the children's area. A two story gallery and display wall will connect the two floors on the north side of the grand staircase, offering area artists and collectors a place to exhibit their work.

The space available for shelving of books and non-print materials will be more than doubled, while the number of computers available will triple. The children's area will feature interactive displays, learning computers, and an opportunity to integrate and house the non-fiction collection in age-appropriate shelving, rather than interfiling it with the adult materials as it is now. A sculpture in the giant shape of the letters, Q U I E T, is being proposed to frame a special gateway into a multipurpose children's learning space filled with educational, manipulative toys and books. The Q U I E T sculpture can double as a fun place for youngsters to curl up and read.

A boardroom and a multipurpose space will facilitate expanded library programs and offer a place for the community to gather for special events. This activity will be a flexible design, able to be subdivided into spaces of different sizes, each of which will be infused with technology to support meetings, exhibits, and children's indoor activities. The board room will be equipped with a large LCD panel to accommodate group viewing and public presentations, while the multipurpose spaces will feature a cinema-quality digital projection and sound system. Both areas will support wireless connectivity, and free WIFI will facilitate connectivity to the Web through all public spaces, both inside and outside of the Library.

Bricks in the central section of lower level on the south side of the library will be removed and replaced with glass, connecting the soft light falling through the skylight on the north end of the floor with brighter sunlight on the opposite end of the floor. The lower level will open onto the reading plaza and program space.

In recognition of the community's desire to provide an engaging place for teens, the renovated and expanded library will feature a large center designed specifically with this age group in mind, complete with age appropriate collections, the latest technologies, and touch screen learning-game consoles. Café style booths will invite teens to settle in for group study and other collaborative projects.

Brennan presented a conceptual design for a Phase II addition to the North Branch that consisted of a 250-seat multipurpose auditorium with a fixed stage. The proposed future addition was

situated to the south of the existing Library and connected by a large breezeway on the upper level, space that could also be used to house expanded Library collections. A major ground level entrance and loading zone was proposed on the south side of the Phase II addition, allowing the auditorium to be utilized independently from the Library. The two-story structure would be served by an elevator, commercial kitchen, and large banks of public restrooms. Brennan noted there is a lot of parking in the area with an opportunity for the Library and City to partner to create more.

Spencer inquired about the number of square feet being proposed for Phase II and the projected cost in today's dollars.

Brennan replied that the facility would be approximately 15,000 square feet and was projected to cost \$3.5 million. The facility as proposed was robust and contained the equipment required to facilitate the multipurpose use of such a civic facility.

Additional progress on the North Branch renovation now hinges on approval from North Ogden City, allowing the project to proceed.

Consideration of Elected Officials' Request to Cancel Planned Renovation of North Branch Library:

Ebert noted some northern area elected officials were continuing to pressure County officials to cancel/postpone the North Branch renovation project.

Ebert had met with these individuals on numerous occasions in an attempt to reach a compromise. He had presented the Library Board's offer to postpone the project subject to the cities reimbursing the taxpayers for the loss of purchasing power due to inflation. A reasonable, professional methodology was created to determine the monthly cost for the delay, but the mayors refused to backstop the loss.

Three compromise options for expanding the library were also presented, including completing the basement, expanding to the north, and expanding over the skateboard park to the south. Each of these options was rejected.

EDA Architects had been asked to develop, at some public expense, a design for a Phase II addition of a large multipurpose auditorium. Ebert, Brennan, and Wangsgard presented this plan to the mayors. It was rejected.

All the options the mayors initially offered the Board, relative to working together on parking, seemed to be off the table, and then back on the table, and now off the table again.

Ebert noted it was hard to know what to try next to reach a compromise as time was running out. Every time it seemed progress was being made, the negotiations fell through. The line was constantly moving.

Spencer thanked Ebert for his good work on behalf of the Board, noting there was quite a lot of emotion out there.

Ebert noted he was afraid the environment was going to become hostile and, therefore, wanted the Board to know what is taking place.

Spencer asked if anyone on the Board had changed their mind about the value of the project as voted on by the public for the residents of Northern Weber County. No minds were changed.

Jensen asked if the money could be spent elsewhere.

Baron, who had reviewed the legality of building elsewhere, responded that the bond language stated that the County would be bonding for library capital improvements, including projects detailed in the bond language. Baron had contacted attorneys who specialize in public finance issues and their opinion was that the word "including" was not restrictive and did not prevent the County from using available funding for other library projects. The County's legal advisors are of the opinion that the Board does not have to complete the North Branch, but could instead use the funding for something not included on the capital projects list, as long as it is a library capital improvement.

Jensen asked if the bond money could be used to construct a library in Farr West. Baron said yes.

Spencer thanked Ebert for his effort and asked him to continue pushing forward in an attempt to come to a compromise with northern mayors to allow the North Branch project to proceed. There is integrity in following the will of the people, Spencer noted.

Ebert said he would try but he did not think there was an opportunity for resolution, other than stopping the project. The mayors will not compromise. No matter what is suggested, it is rejected. It is important to maintain the integrity of the County Library by not allowing a project to proceed in a way that is not a good fit for the rest of the System. Mayors keep asking for concessions that, if agreed to, would not provide equitable library service for their constituents.

Wangsgard noted the effort made by Ebert, who had invested tremendous energy in trying to bring the project to the people. She also expressed appreciation for the support of all three Commissioners in trying to move the project forward. She agreed with Ebert, however, that there seemed to be those who were determined to stop the project pretty much at all costs.

Stokes had earlier suggested the Board move forward with no delay. In light of the current issues, there seemed to be a need to present the project and discuss the project publically.

The Board discussed the option of offering elected officials the option of holding a public meeting where they present the idea of tabling the project and then vote to adopt a resolution, either stopping the project or moving forward. Spencer noted that it had been Stokes' counsel to present the North Branch plans in a public meeting so there would be an opportunity for people to see what was being proposed; perhaps both issues could be handled in the same meeting.

The Board agreed that if they vote to proceed, they need to work with the County and Board to move the project forward. If they vote to oppose the project, then the Board has a different proposition. This process brings the negotiation out into the light, lets people see the plans for the Library, and then allows mayors and council members to take a transparent action.

If this is an agreeable course of action, Ebert suggested the Board arrange to be included on the city council agenda in North Ogden, Pleasant View, and Harrisville. He asked Baron to prepare two resolutions, one to support expansion and renovation of North Branch, and one to stop the project. He noted the plans presented that evening were for an amazing facility, and the County had already invested considerable money into the project, but progress was at a standstill. This seemed like a viable way to proceed.

Wangsgard noted that, to be fair, people needed to understand the Board will not stop in their quest to improve services to residents of northern Weber County. Construction costs are increasing at a rate of approximately \$30,000 per month and will get higher. Something needs to be done to fulfill the promise to the people and improve services before inflation in building costs price northern Weber County residents out of the market.

Ebert noted the northern officials may be amenable to the Board building a smaller branch in another location and then coming back to North Ogden in three to five years.

Harris said she was totally opposed to putting funds into something smaller; the people deserve their library.

Innes indicated he was in favor of moving forward on the current project as it is being designed.

Jensen expressed a desire for the public to have an opportunity to see the current North Branch design.

Spencer noted that he had no heartache in shifting the effort to improve services in northern Weber County to a community that really wants it, but he must have a real reason to not follow through on the public vote.

Innes moved that the Board proceed with presenting architectural drawings to city officials and the general public, and then ask elected officials to take a vote on whether to proceed. Taylor seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Spencer called for a vote. All voted aye.

Baron, Wangsgard, and Spencer were asked to prepare the needed resolutions, arrange to get on the agenda for city council meetings, and get ready to present the renovation plans.

Wangsgard reminded the Board that the dedication and opening of the Southwest Branch had to be accomplished before Library employees will have the time and resources to follow through in preparing for these community presentations.

Jones indicated that she wanted to see those in the North Ogden area get their library.

Update on Planning for a Branch Library in Farr West City:

Ebert noted elected officials in Farr West City are patiently waiting for a library and are interested in moving forward.

Other:

There being no further business, Jones moved to adjourn. Taylor seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Respectfully submitted: Julia Valle 3-1-16
Julia Valle Date