

WEBER COUNTY LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES

Date: January 18, 2011

Board Members  
in Attendance: Marcia Harris, Chair  
Holly Bauman  
Karen Leonardi  
Marie Irvine  
Kathleen Herndon  
Tom Taylor  
Jan Zogmaister

Others  
in Attendance: Lynnda Wangsgard, Director  
Karen Burton, Associate Director  
Scott Jones, Assistant Director/Technology Director  
Kim Hale, Comptroller  
Sarah Lovato, Southwest Branch Manager  
Julia Valle, Business Office Manager  
Monette Hurtado, Legal Counsel  
Evelyn Bertilson, Friends of the Library  
Craig Summers, Friends of the Library  
Matt Dixon, South Ogden City  
Blake Hadley, H. Guy Child Elementary School

Minutes:

Minutes of the December 21, 2010 meeting were approved as mailed.

Consideration of Options Available to Open Pathway Year-Round between Friendship Park and the Pleasant Valley Branch:

An incident involving children trying to get to the Pleasant Valley Branch Library to attend an after school program prompted Weber County and South Ogden City elected officials to discuss opening the pathway connecting Friendship Park and the Library from November 1 through March 1. Wangsgard and Dixon had been asked to meet and discuss options for snow removal, which was the major obstacle to opening the pathway during winter months. Wangsgard had contacted Hadley for his advice on the project, as well.

Dixon noted the City is unable to provide support for snow removal, but would consider turning the pathway over to the County, if the Library would accept responsibility for keeping it open and liability for any accidents or injury during the winter months. He distributed two drawings (attached). The first drawing illustrated options for allowing children access to the Library along an established pathway, versus keyed-access through the south gate to the shops area, under adult supervision. The second drawing illustrated areas in which snow could be stored if the pathway were to be opened.

The option of entering the Library via the south gate was rejected after a short discussion, because it did not allow for persons other than school students to walk to the Library, and because it required a school official to escort children through the City shops area. No one would be available to escort children after school, on weekends, or during school breaks. The second option of opening the pathway was contingent upon the Library accepting responsibility for snow removal and blowing it into the areas designated on the second handout.

Wangsgard had discussed opening the established pathway with Library maintenance staff who felt they could handle the snow as requested, but would need to have the City provide easy access to the pathway from the southeast gate; that is, keep the gate free from snow. The Library would also need a key to this gate, facilitating 24/7 access, as the maintenance staff arrives at work at 3 a.m. Access via this gate would allow the Library to plow east to west, if needed, thus better controlling placement of the snow.

Wangsgard also noted the Library would need to build a ramp to facilitate use of Library snowplowing equipment. Access to City property would be necessary to form and pour the ramp. She recommended removing the gates and placing posts at either end of the pathway to control motorized traffic. She also noted the Library would like to remove the slats in the fence on the South side of the pathway to facilitate viewing activity along the walkway. The Library would provide signage to prohibit inappropriate use and maintain existing lighting and electronic monitoring of the pathway, but would want the City to maintain the lighting on the north end of their shops building as well.

Hadley, Principal of H. Guy Child Elementary, indicated the school would accept responsibility for clearing snow from the school grounds to the east entrance of the pathway.

After discussion, the parties asked Hurtado to prepare an interlocal agreement, detailing a cooperative effort on the part of the County, City, and School to open the pathway year-round. Zogmaister was thanked for her effort in bringing all the interested parties to the table to reach an amiable solution to a problem that was creating a dangerous situation and prohibiting children and others from accessing the Library.

#### Distribution of Financial Report:

Hale distributed the financial report, indicating the Library was on solid financial footing. He estimated approximately \$200,000 would be contributed to the fund balance after all revenues were adjusted and all obligations paid. The major source of this year-end surplus was an under-expenditure in the salary and benefits line items, which he attributed to sound fiscal

management.

Library Tour:

Lovato greeted the Board and took the group on a tour of the Southwest Branch, detailing the strengths of the facility – location, location, location – and the many challenges to providing modern library services in a thirty-five year-old building that has no electrical or data infrastructure and which is too small to accommodate the service area. Lovato noted the adult services area has only two study tables, and for every new book purchased a core collection title needs to be discarded. There is no area for teens and the children’s book collection area is way too small to accommodate the community. During summer months, it is not unusual for every picture book and easy reader to be checked out. Space for after school projects is non-existent. The Southwest Branch is heavily used, serving the community well as a “kwik-stop” branch, but is not a destination library. In short, the Branch has no place for people to “be.”

The Board thanked Lovato for her tour and update on the facility.

Other:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Julia Valle

  
Date