

WEBER COUNTY LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

Date: January 8, 2019

Board Members

In Attendance: Diana Allison
Jim Harvey
Kathleen Jensen
Judith Jones
Cynthia Mattson
Reed Spencer
Spencer Stokes

Others in

Attendance: Lynnda Wangsgard, Library Director
Phoebe Carter, Assistant Library Director
Julia Valle, Business Office Manager
Bryan Baron, Deputy County Attorney
Evelyn Bertilson, Friends of the Library
Margaret Rostkowski, Weber Reads
Janet Muir, Dark Sky Initiative

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

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Approval of December 4, 2018 Meeting Minutes:

Allison called for corrections or comments on the minutes. Hearing none, Harvey moved approval. Spencer offered a second to the motion. All voted in the affirmative.

Weber Reads: The Transcontinental Railroad

Margaret Rostkowski, Weber Reads Community Coordinator, offered a brief summary of the reading and discussion program that began in 2007 with the study of *Beowulf*.

The 2018-19 theme is the "Transcontinental Railroad." Carter and Rostkowski select books and master teachers who are graduates of the Wasatch Range Writing project, produce lesson plans for elementary, junior high, and high school level studies. Every school, public and private, in Weber County is presented with a box containing age-appropriate books and lesson plans. The lesson plans are posted on the Library Web site: <https://www.weberpl.lib.ut.us/discover/weber-reads-transcontinental-railroad>. Several programs are planned around the theme as well.

Rostkowski reviewed a sampling of the books provided to local schools, including *Locomotive*, by Brian Floca, a Caldecott Medal winner that uses layout and graphics to tell the tale of bringing crews and family from the plains to the mountains to the ocean. The book is a perfect approach to learning for young children, she said.

Some of the books provided to the schools tell a less well-known side of the Transcontinental Railroad story, including that of the Chinese laborers. *The Ten-Mile Day*, by Mary Ann Fraser, is an adventure story that chronicles a Chinese labor crew that set a track-laying record just west of Promontory Summit, Utah.

Dragon's Gate, by Laurence Yep, was written for young adults and tells a tale of a young man who travels to the United States expecting to see a land of gold fields and, instead, first sees a vast, cold whiteness. This young man works in underground tunnels, as some workers did year-round, and learns lessons that are life-fulfilling.

For the Native people, the train was not a great thing, Rostkowski reminded. In *Death of the Iron Horse*, by Paul Goble, the reader learns about the only time an Iron Horse was derailed by Native Americans. It is a true story of courage and pride and of a people caught up in an unequal struggle to preserve their sacred way of life.

Jensen asked how the books and lesson plans are introduced in the schools.

Rostkowski noted the boxes are delivered to every school librarian, along with an offer to have Library staff present a book discussion in classrooms. Everything is also available online, so community groups may use the materials as well.

Transcontinental Railroad Sesquicentennial Celebration:

The Weber Reads 2018-19 program focus was in response to an invitation by Stokes, Co-Chair of the "Spike 150" Celebration Commission, to become a partner in "Uniting a Nation." Stokes framed Rostkowski's Weber Reads presentation, placing it into the larger context of the State-wide sesquicentennial celebration of completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.

On the first celebration, May 10, 1869, of the driving of the spike, church bells rang out, cannons were shot off over the ocean, it was a very big deal, Stokes said. "Travel from coast to coast went from six months to six days, oranges from the southeastern U.S. arrived in California ready to eat."

As part of the festivities planned for one hundred fifty years later, the O. C. Tanner Gift of Music will present the Utah Symphony performing at the LDS Conference Center with the Tabernacle Choir and a special guest yet to be announced. The Pacific Railway Act, signed by President Abraham Lincoln, will be on exhibit at the State Capitol, along with the four special spikes: the famous golden spike, Nevada's silver spike, Arizona's gold and silver spike, and a second golden spike. The Utah Museum of Fine Arts will feature original photographs of the building project and there will be a special historical exhibit installed on the fourth floor of the State Capitol. Also of special note will be a Gold Mountain Musical, highlighting the role of Chinese construction workers.

Utah communities were invited to apply for grants to join in the celebration, resulting in local celebrations that will feature fireworks over every train station in Utah. Weber County Commissioners are working on getting hats in keeping with the fashion of the day. The Union

Pacific “Big Boy,” one of the world’s largest steam locomotives, will come into Ogden on May 10th, which will also feature a formal celebratory dance and party.

Harvey expects a large turnout for the locomotive’s arrival, remembering that, during 2014, the last time Big Boy came through Ogden, throngs of people gathered to see its return to Junction City as it arrived at Ogden’s Union Station after making its way from Cheyenne, Wyoming. The engine is currently being rebuilt in preparation for the sesquicentennial celebration and the May 10th appearance will be its first public showing since the overhaul was undertaken.

Jones noted the crew of the Big Boy is made up of young people, it is a memorable experience just to talk with them.

Ironically, Stokes noted, the visitors center at the Golden Spike National Historic Site will be closed for renovation on May 10th. Work is being done to encourage re-designating the Historic Site as a National Historic Monument.

Bertilson asked Stokes to explain the difference between an historic site and an historic monument or park.

Stokes noted that a national monument is a protected area that is similar to a national park. It can be created from any land owned or controlled by the Federal government. The change from a national historic site to a national monument would bring more visitors to the area – the designation is more prestigious. Gettysburg is a national park, for example, Stokes said. The Golden Spike National Historic Site, is unique, nothing has changed since the rails were united as illustrated by 100 miles of original track reserved on Bureau of Land Management property. There are also sites where Chinese workers were housed. Visitors can still see where the workers lived and view artifacts at the sites.

If the re-designation is approved, Stokes said, a special exit in Corrine will invite tourists to leave the freeway and learn more about the uniting of the rails. It will serve as an economic development tool for northern Utah.

Rostkowski recommended reading the *Empire Express: Building the First Transcontinental Railroad*, by David Haward Bain, as the definitive tome on the subject. Stokes agreed, but noted the more readable history is Stephen E. Ambrose’s *Nothing Like It in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental railroad*. Both books are featured on the Weber Reads bibliography along with dozens of other print, recorded, and eBooks.

Stokes concluded by noting the Spike 150 celebration will focus on a great American story that brought together, for the first time, Chinese workers, Civil War soldiers, and freed slaves, all working to unite the rails. “It was the moon shot of that century that took place right next to the plant where the rockets that took us to the moon were made.”

Stokes will report back to Spike 150 Committee concerning what is being done in Weber County, including Weber Reads: The Transcontinental Railroad.

Stokes presented the Board with a partner toolkit to help enhance the Library’s program plans.

Consideration of an Art Installation at Ogden Valley Branch:

Allison introduced Janet Muir who presented a proposal for an art installation at Ogden Valley Branch.

Muir began by introducing the dark sky concept as a tool for economic development and “the most profitable sector of eco-tourism.” Eighty percent of world’s population cannot see the Milky Way, she said. People travel to southern Utah from all over the world to see the night sky, which requires an overnight stay that is a source of income for local communities.

Muir said that she worked with people in Ogden Valley to gain accreditation of Weber County North Fork Park as an international Dark Sky Park. She was also instrumental in establishing an academic center for dark skies at the University of Utah. The Utah Office of Tourism, was quick on the uptake of the dark sky initiative, noting that in many places people can hardly see the moon, let alone the stars. Dark skies across Utah have the potential to replace jobs lost in mineral abstraction, the Office contends.

For example, Muir continued, a dark sky manufacturing facility in southern Utah is a startup that is focusing on the need for outdoor night-lighting. Native American reservations may benefit from dark sky visitors and overnight stays helping to preserve a cultural dark sky legacy. “Greek constellations are so boring, she said, ethno-astronomy is exhilarating with explanations of the Milky Way as snow shaken from the back of a grizzly bear and the North Star as the eye of a mountain goat that climbed so high.

Muir detailed a proposed Ogden Valley dark sky mural project that was based on a model developed in Tillamook County, Oregon. The goal was to entice visitors to follow the mural trail and frequent businesses along the way. The first mural painted by Jake Songer was installed in memory of Gale Fuller on the family barn located across the street from Valley Elementary School.

Songer had designed a second mural and Muir was seeking permission to mount it on the northeast side of the Ogden Valley Branch as a tribute to Brent Taylor who, Muir said, was an original supporter, along with County Commissioners and Representative Rob Bishop, of an effort to promote the economic development potential of the dark sky movement.

Allison, noted the Board had a general understanding of the dark sky initiatives and supported the concept but needed clarification of what was being presented and what they were being asked to do. How many murals were being planned in Ogden Valley? Who was asking the Board to consider hosting the second mural?

Muir said there was not a definitive number of murals planned, they would be painted and placed as time and funding could be provided.

The Library Board was being asked to sign a contract, agreeing to host a mural for 25 years, and then they would own it. The art will be paid for by the local chapter of the International Dark Skies Association. Muir assured the Board that it would be painted with the kind of paint that lasts and does not need much upkeep. It was planned to be 25 x 13 feet in size. Songer wanted to get started soon so the work could be completed this spring. The size of the painting was based on the budget available and what Songer charges for a work this size. The design featured a boy standing on earth, peering up at a star-filled sky. Muir noted a girl could be added to make it more gender-equitable.



Wangsgard asked that “if the concept is something the Board is interested in pursuing, what role would they have in approving the final design and how it would be displayed on the building or grounds”?

Muir responded that “Jake has limited time and had to start painting now. There are other sites they can go to for installation of this work.”

Jones asked who would pay for repairs and upkeep.

Muir said that would have to be worked out at a later date.

Spencer said the cost of upkeep would need to be covered in the agreement, noting 25 years is too long to agree to display a work without the owner having a prerogative to remove it if need be.

Muir said their first choice for an installation had actually been the Eden post office, but they were worried that it might be vandalized there.

Wangsgard noted the front of the Ogden Valley Branch had been vandalized with spray paint several years ago.

Mattson said the agreement should have some stipulation concerning the Board’s authority to remove the art if something happened to it. Why not hang it at the elementary school, she asked.

Muir said the parking lot lighting at the school is not in keeping with the dark sky initiative. Even though the Library is 25 years old, it was designed as a “dark sky” building which makes it an attractive site.

Allison noted the Board needed to be careful of the kind of precedent that would be set by agreeing to take a work of art that they were not involved in designing, and then agreeing to display it for 25 years by affixing it to the outside of a public building, especially without having ownership or an agreement on the costs of maintaining the image over time.

Muir said it could be mounted to the low wall in front of building, which would be better anyway because the building is too far away from street. If mounted to the low wall, there could be a signboard and a kiosk put up in front of the Library, including a plaque and tribute to Brent Taylor. Mounting it on the wall, or on a free-standing kiosk, would be better than mounting it on the building, but the group would not want it on the inside of the building, Muir said. They would want people to be able to see it when driving by the building.

Jensen asked if they could think about the proposal, noting she loves the work on barns, but is trying to vision it on the Library.

Muir said the Ogden Valley Starry Ways Committee will go to plan B and find an alternate location and then return with another plan for a third mural for the Board's consideration.

Allison said the Board would need specifics on the proposal and the contract would have to be reviewed by legal counsel. Whatever is proposed in the future, the art would need to reflect not only starry skies, but also the values of the Library.

Muir said that would be hard to do.

Wangsgard said that in order to be considered, a proposed work of public art has to go through a process. Library representatives have to meet with the donors, and the artist, and they usually have an architect involved to give input on the design suitable in size and proportion to the place of installation. Lighting has to be considered, as does the long term maintenance – will it be under snow, a roof drain, or some other impediment. Those accepting a donation have to be prepared to keep it safe and repair and refurbish it as necessary in order to ensure it is an ongoing compliment to the donor, artist, and owner. The Library would not consider taking responsibility for a work the public does not own. Selecting and placing public art requires that all parties understand and agree to all of this. In her experience, it usually takes a year or longer to work through these details.

Muir, said she would consider coming back with a proposal for the Library as the site of a third work of art.

Wangsgard stated that a good place to start would be to:

1. Meet with the Library Director to propose what the donor would like to do.
2. Establish a process for selecting the artist – proposals, etc.
3. Require the artists to provide a rendering of how it will be installed, lighted, etc.
4. Develop a mutually agreeable contract for creation, installation, and ongoing maintenance.
5. Meet with the Library Board to discuss the proposal.

Wangsgard noted a work of public art in the atrium of the Main Library took well over a year to vet, design, and install to ensure it was appropriate to the facility. Buildings have an architectural presence that needs to be respected.

Harvey said that maybe the process should have gone to the Library staff first to prepare for a discussion by the Board. He suggested Muir consider the Library as a possible site sometime in the future.

Allison thanked Muir for her presentation.

Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Harvey reported on the installation of Commissioners Jenkins and Froerer who had already met with Mayor Dickemore who briefed them on a desire to have a library in Farr West.

Director's Report:

Statistical/Financial

Wangsgard reported funds had been transferred from the "utilities" line item in the operating budget to the "building & grounds" line item. Spending was on target for yearend and will result in turning back to the Library fund balance significantly more than the \$500,000 goal set at the beginning of the year. She thanked Commissioner Harvey for the opportunity to work through the year on faith that the staff would be able to come in significantly under budget. The fiscal safety net approved in the Library Board's requested 2018 operating budget showed respect and good will on the part of County officials. The staff had not let them down.

Harvey noted the Library has a great reputation for fiscal responsibility, Commissioners can make positive decisions because of their confidence in the employees.

Architectural/Construction Award: Main Library

The Main Library received the Utah Construction & Design 2018 Outstanding Project Award in the category of Renovation and Restoration. Wangsgard and Allison had accepted the award on behalf of the County.

Of all the pictures of the beautiful results achieved in the restoration, the Utah Construction & Design group had selected the atrium lighted sculpture to feature on the award. While EDA Architects were responsible for the overall renovation of the Main Library, Prescott Muir Architects (PMA) were in charge of the sculpture installation. PMA featured the sculpture on their year-end holiday card. Both architectural firms got a nod of approval during the awards ceremony as did Wadman Corporation.

Allison said she enjoyed seeing a short video clip and hearing about the 40 awards presented during the ceremony. Some awards were for entire projects, such as the Main Library, but many recognized the work of subcontractors who accomplished noteworthy results in a particular field, such as electrical infrastructure, or freeway bridge construction.

The public art prominently featured in the video clip and on the award plaque made a wonderful showing on behalf of Ogden and Weber County's Main Library.

Progress on Closeout of Capital Projects: Headquarters, Main Library, North Branch

R&O Construction had received their final payment on the North Branch, minus a small retainage that will be withheld until some small warranty issues are resolved.

Demolition was underway at the Headquarters Library in preparation for installation of the lightning protection system. The general contractor had 90 days to complete the project, but it may take a little longer depending on weather conditions. Once the demolition is completed, most of the remaining work will need to be done on the roof, which has to be free of ice and snow to facilitate adhering the mounts and cabling.

One payment was still outstanding on the Main Library. It will be adjusted to withhold enough retainage to complete various items that are not yet finished. For example, the ground cover needs to be replaced with the correct variety, the soffit needs a second coat of sealer, and the HVAC system is still not working properly. A small amount is also being withheld from EDA's final contract

payment to ensure their mechanical engineers work hand-in-hand with the general contractor in determining if the problems with the HVAC system are with the chiller and pumps, the controls, or both.

A final change order will complete the base for a sculpture that is being provided by a generous donation to the Library Development Fund. It took months longer than expected to vet the artist, and then even more time to design the base and lighting system for a sculpture to be placed on the south lawn at the Main Library. The plan had originally been to place the sculpture in the sunken garden on the east side of the Library, and power had been installed in this area before the artist was selected. However, after the artist was engaged and renditions were reviewed, it was determined the ideal spot was on the south lawn. Wadman Corporation will add an electrical feed and complete the base as soon as the frost is out of the ground.

Spencer asked about the sculpture.

Wangsgard said the work was a gift from a donor who wished to remain anonymous and the sculpture was being commissioned by the Development Board. It was being kept “under wraps” because of both the size of the work and status of the artist. The sculpture will serve as an east-side anchor for Ogden’s Creative District that begins at Union Station and comes north on 25th Street to Jefferson Avenue. The artist has work installed throughout the United States and in many other countries, but this will be his first work in Utah.

Weber County will have a special team of auditors produce a final report on utilization of the bond funding after all the projects are closed.

Retirement Recognition Events in Honor of Ann Booth and Kathryn Pudlock

Board members and others were invited to attend a dinner in honor of Ann Booth and Kathryn Pudlock who were retiring.

Booth had been with the Library since 1997 and worked in every County Library facility serving as manager of children’s services, Southwest Branch manager, North Branch manager, and adult services manager. She also has been the Library’s customer service trainer. Ann stayed with the Main Library through the renovation, as it was shutdown floor by floor and then area by area. She was the last one out of the building as it closed and one of the first to return when it reopened. She took the lead in overseeing reshelving of all the materials that had been stored on site and temporarily moved to other library buildings for safekeeping. Her work ethic is legendary in the Library System, Wangsgard said.

Pudlock, a professionally trained medical librarian, began her career with the Library in 1995 as a substitute and then moved to full time during 2006. She first worked as an adult services librarian at the Main Library and then, during 2010, accepted a promotion to manage the Pleasant Valley Branch. Under her direction, the Branch became home of the Library’s consumer health services while also setting the benchmark as the first “third place” library in the state. So popular was the Branch under Kathy’s guidance that it became the impetus for the successful capital bond election. Every mayor, in every city, in Weber County wanted a Pleasant Valley Branch in their community.

Together Kathy and Ann had gathered an enormous number of responsibilities and projects under their management umbrellas. It is going to be a challenge to manage without them, Wangsgard noted.

2019 First Quarter Projects & Priorities

Wangsgard reviewed the first quarter projects and priorities for the 2019 budget year, including:

- Installation of the lightning protection system at Headquarters
- Design, bid, and contract negotiations for the site and utilities upgrade at Ogden Valley Branch
- Reallocation of positions to accommodate for two retiring managers
- Reworking the pay for performance plan process
- Rewriting job descriptions
- Coordinating with jobbers and suppliers to privatize the cataloging and processing of fiction items that can now be provided by jobbers at a cost savings.

Library Board Policy: Access to Buildings & Grounds:

Baron distributed a revised policy regulating access to Library buildings and grounds and reminded the Board the goal of the policy was to balance the Constitutional right to free speech while also maintaining an environment suitable to the operations of a public library. The revised policy was undertaken in response to a law passed by the State Legislature that takes effect later during 2019. The County Commission had passed an ordinance, authorizing the Library Board to regulate free speech on Library property and Baron had reworked the policy to reflect his recommendations.

Baron asked if the Board would like him to go through the revision, paragraph by paragraph, or if they would rather take it home, read and reflect, and discuss it during the next meeting.

Board members chose to take the policy with them and add it to the February 5th meeting agenda.

Barron invited them to call him with questions during the interim.

Administrative Procedure: Access to Building Grounds:

Wangsgard distributed an administrative procedure that complements the access to buildings and grounds policy, noting that it may need to be reworked after the policy is updated.

Adjourn:

There being no other items of business, Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Jensen seconded the motion. All voted in the affirmative.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Julia Valle


Date