

WEBER COUNTY LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

Date: June 25, 2015

Board Members

In Attendance: Scott Spencer
James Ebert
Brent Innes
Spencer Stokes
Tom Taylor

Board Members

Excused: Eric Jacobson
Kathleen Jensen

Others in

Attendance: Lynnda Wangsgard, Library Director
Scott Jones, Assistant Library Director
Marcia Harris, Development Board

Spencer called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Nominations for Seat on Library Board:

Each Board member received complete copies of applications from those wishing consideration for an appointment, including an application from Eric Jacobson who respectfully requested consideration for a second term so he could help complete projects for which he has a keen interest and felt an obligation.

In the interest of providing viable alternates, however, the Board reviewed more than a dozen applications submitted by outstanding community members. Each current Board member studied the applications and rated the individuals according to the following criteria (in alphabetical order):

Community Involvement – meaningful networking ties and knowledge of the community

Construction – knowledge of building processes, contract negotiations, selection methods, etc.

Diversity – new or different cultural perspective

Fundraising – ability to help identify sources of revenue that may enhance capital projects

Geography/Representation – added balance of representation from throughout service area

After thoughtful consideration, the following names were selected (presented in alphabetical order) as best suited to enhance the Board at this time.

Joe Bauman. Bowman is the owner of a construction company/consulting business and has over 30 years' experience working with area contractors. He has served on various local government boards and is affiliated with builders' associations and the local Chamber of Commerce. He is a licensed contractor and building inspector. He is married to Holly Nye who has been influential in locating donations to support Library literacy programs.

Alice Hirai. Hirai is employed by Weber Human Services in aging services. She is a registered nurse and interested in promoting good health and emergency preparedness through community education. She has been extremely active in the community and has ties with the arts as well as multicultural, religious, and diverse peoples, including those with disabilities. As Japanese Americans, Hirai and her family were sent to Topaz, Utah where they were held in an internment camp until the end of World War II. Good will toward others and resilience in the face of adversity are hallmarks of her personal and professional life. Her husband, who worked for John Piers, Architect of the Main Library, has personal, historical knowledge of the building. Hirai would bring valuable connections to the community for Library consumer health services as well as for seniors and diverse groups.

Eric Jacobson. The Board respectfully noted that it was their recommendation and request that Eric Jacobson be reappointed to serve a second term.

Jacobson has been an active and resourceful member whose background in academic computing, mathematical research, research analysis for local school districts and universities, and volunteer work with children and teens, enriches the programs and services the Library offers, and which will be invaluable as the Library integrates STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) concepts into library programs. In addition to his interest in furthering STEM literacy concepts, Jacobson is invested in completing Library capital projects on time and under budget and would very much like to use his expertise to help see this process through to conclusion. His connections to potential donors is also noteworthy. The Board would very much like to continue to enjoy his good will and expertise.

Judith B. Jones. Jones is a small business owner and area artist. She serves on the board of a local foundation and has contacts with others in the community who may be interested in enhancing Library capital projects. She is a voracious reader and has shown interest and support of enhanced youth services and digital technology throughout the Library System. She is known throughout the community as a strong advocate for education. The Library Board currently is composed of six men and one woman. Judith would bring some balance in this regard. She is a resident of Pleasant View and knowledgeable about the need to expand and update services at the North Branch. Jones would bring valuable business skills to the Board and connect the Main Library to enterprises on 25th Street. She would also provide a communication channel to those who may wish to enhance Library capital projects, programs, and services.

Wade Owen. Owen has experience in writing RFPs, data base migration, purchasing processes, and various types of project management. He has significant training, including managing change, project management, and developing and using software to address problems and issues. He is currently involved in modernizing Utah's child welfare system. His resume details vast experience in government and the private sector. While most of Owen's involvement has been in Salt Lake City, he expresses a keen interest in immersing himself in building Weber County and his skills make him a good fit for the Library System at this time.

Melvin Sowerby. (Please note that Sowerby was selected but, for personal reasons, asked to have his name withdrawn at this time, although he is available to serve on Board appointed work groups to address issues of concern related to capital projects.)

Sowerby's long-term association with Woodbury Corporation, resulting in knowledge of development, property management, and brokerage services, along with his service as chair of the Utah State Building Board and his professional association with the Association of Realtors, Downtown Ogden Incorporated, and the Ogden Rotary Club, speak to his qualifications and value as someone who has the community connections, wisdom, and experience to guide the continued development of the Weber County Library System.

Consideration of Items to Be Presented during Meeting with the Ogden City Planning Commission, July 1, 2015:

Ebert had met with City officials, gaining confirmation that they were not planning on having the Library replace the restroom in Lester Park. Ogden City received grant funds to build a replacement restroom and they City understands it is their responsibility to have a working restroom in a City Park to accommodate people who need the facilities when the Library is not open to the public. Wangsgard reported on the tree climbing event held in the Park the previous week. The City brought in two portable restrooms for the event, but the company did not remove them in a timely manner and vandals tipped them over in the Library parking lot where they emptied their contents. The Library had to clean up the mess.

Ebert noted that City representatives expressed reservations about expanding parking significantly enough to provide an entrance to the lot from 24th Street, but were willing to expand at least one and one-half rows of stalls and provide striping for angle parking on the north side of 25th Street. There is a commitment on the part of the City administration to proceed with this plan. Ebert had not yet received these commitments in writing, but has firm personal commitments.

Wangsgard inquired about how to proceed in presenting the parking compromise and request that the Planning Commission recommend amending the General Plan to allow for a small intrusion into Lester Park. Should the big picture be presented, so people there can see compromise position that Ebert has negotiated? Ebert said that would be a good idea, so the public can hear the facts and see that the request is in line with the compromises the City has asked the Board to make in relation to additional parking.

It was agreed that the presentation plan will be to have either Commissioner Ebert or Wangsgard introduce the vision and explain what the Board is trying to accomplish with the Main Library renovation. A representative from EDA Architects will then go over the renovation plans, detailing the additional public service, lease, and outdoor programming spaces that will increase the draw on the building. Ebert asked that the architects show the various parking iterations, including the compromise plan, so the Planning Commission members can see the Board is willing to meet the City more than half way.

Harris inquired about parking along Jefferson, asking if it is always at maximum. Wangsgard noted that it is at capacity most of the day. She also addressed issues caused by the recently added angle parking on the west side of 25th Street that obstructs the intersection and makes for an unsafe condition, especially in conjunction with the bus stop to the east. Removing two or three angle parking stalls would help alleviate the problem.

During the previous Planning Commission's work session, a member said only about one-third of the parking lot was filled as she drove past that evening just before 5 p.m. However, when Library employees returned after the meeting at about 7 p.m., they took photographs illustrating both the parking lot and street area were filled to capacity.

Ebert recommended moving forward on the compromise plan and waiting to see if it is sufficient to meet public need. If not, the Board can approach the City in the future and ask for further consideration. Wangsgard reminded the Board that six months after the Main Library building is completed, bond money allocated for the project is no longer available for improvements, so another future source of funding a parking expansion would need to be identified at that time.

Stokes asked that the Board be aware that help from the Planning Commission may be needed throughout the project, so a working compromise and good will should be the goal.

Ebert noted that the Planning Commission relies on the City staff's recommendations, and the City staff relies on the City Administration. It is important to communicate and have good relationships at all three levels.

Wangsgard complimented and thanked Ebert for his negotiations, noting the clarification on the City using their grant to replace the restroom and the small expansion into the Park will allow the project to move forward without incurring costs that would be brought about by further delays.

Stokes noted that there is likely no place in the City, other than school crossings, that has heavier pedestrian/vehicle interaction than those intersections at 24th and 25th streets and Jefferson Avenue.

Other:

There being no other business, Taylor moved, and Innes seconded a motion to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. All voted "aye."

Respectfully submitted:


Julia Valle


Date