

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 21, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Allen Rose called to order the regular meeting of the Pierce County Rural Library District Board of Trustees on February 21, 2007, 3:36 pm. Board members present were Eugene Matsusaka and J.J. McCament. Budd Wagner arrived later. Paul Chasco was excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the January 10, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
2. January 2007 Payroll, Benefits and Vouchers in the total amount of \$1,654,113.13
 - a. Payroll Warrants 2433 - 2443 dated 01/05/07 – 01/22/07 in the amount of \$4,243.94
 - b. Payroll Disbursement Voucher dated 01/05/07 in the amount of \$357,982.62
 - c. Payroll Disbursement Voucher dated 01/22/07 in the amount of \$384,101.01
 - d. Accounts Payable Warrants: 516303 - 516618 dated 12/31/06 – 01/30/07, in the amount of \$907,785.56
3. Resolution 2007-01: Surplus Equipment and Furnishings
4. Syndetics Contract Renewal
5. 2007 Pierce County Library Foundation Agreement

Ms. McCament moved for adoption of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Matsusaka seconded the motion and it was approved.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Matsusaka: Mr. Matsusaka attended the University Place branch Open House. He reported that due to poor weather conditions, attendance was light. Attendees were asked to give their ideas for the design and services for the new University Place library. It was an informative event that attendees seemed to appreciate.

Mr. Matsusaka also attended the Washington State Library Future Search Conference. The focus of the conference was to set the course for the next five years of library development planning at the state library and for use of federal Library Services and Technology Act funds. He noted that he was a bit disappointed because there didn't seem to be a lot of future thinking in a large sense, with which Ms. Parikh agreed. Participants appeared to focus on current issues. There was some discussion about a universal library card, diversity, and early learning. Ms. Parikh reported that in addition to Mr. Matsusaka and herself, Pierce County representatives included Susan Anderson-Newham, PCLS early learning librarian, Nancy Pearson, League of Women Voters, Bonnie Boyle, PCLS consultant, and Becky Fontaine, Pierce County Reading Foundation.

OFFICER REPORTS

PCLS: Ms. Parikh stated that there seems to be a 'buzz' about PCLS lately, evidenced by positive news articles and responses from our communities. A recent Urban Libraries Council newsletter highlighted two PCLS programs. This great reputation has taken a while to develop.

League of Women Voters Study: The report should be completed in March. League volunteers have gathered a significant amount of information about libraries in Pierce County and report findings should be interesting.

Tacoma Public Library: In December, the Board Chair of Tacoma Public Library reported to his board on the meeting held with PCLS representatives to discuss reciprocal borrowing. The issue is on their Board meeting agenda for discussion today.

Puyallup Public Library: Ms. Parikh will be meeting with the Director of Puyallup Public Library and the City Manager of the City of Puyallup to review quarterly figures from the pilot project. Currently 385 cards have been issued to Puyallup residents and 800 cards to PCLS residents. Circulation figures are not yet available. One of the issues to be studied is how to determine "impact". There are several methods that could be used such as percentage of system's use or percentage of cardholder to population.

Reappointment to Board: The request for reappointment of J.J. McCament to the Board of Trustees is under consideration by a committee of the Pierce County Council. A date for full Council consideration has not been set.

Levy Lid Lift Elections: The Jefferson County Library District successfully passed a levy lid lift measure. Kitsap Regional Library has a lid lift measure on the ballot in April.

Orting: A consultant hired by the City of Orting to update the city's comprehensive plan contacted Ms. Parikh to discuss the desired size of a library for a city of Orting's projected size. Ms. Parikh suggested 10,000 – 12,000 sq. ft. She also reported that the library is currently located in a building funded through Housing Urban and Development grant funds.

Parkland/Spanaway: A Board member asked if funds had previously been allocated for the parking lot entry improvements at the Parkland/Spanaway branch. Larry McCarty, Facilities Manager, responded yes and stated that the project was running under budget. In addition to access improvements, it was also necessary to excavate and renovate the on-site retention system as the system had been overwhelmed with rain in November and December and was terribly fouled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. University Place Project Update: Ms. Parikh introduced guests: Mayor Gerald Gehring, City of University Place, Judy Ball, Friends of University Place Library, and Al and Madeleine Sullivan, library supporters and University Place residents. A committee of the Pierce County Library Foundation met this morning with a consultant to discuss a capital campaign feasibility study for the new University Place branch. A Steering Committee of 15 – 20 people will be formed.

University Place Branch Site Location: Ms. Parikh reported that city and developer representatives were present today to share new proposals for the library's location and share the vision for the Town Center. She noted that the Board would be asked to make a decision today on site location.

Mayor Gehring thanked the Board for time on the agenda and introduced Aaron Lichtman, Developer, Bob Jean, City Manager and Gary Wheeler, Project Manager. Board members introduced themselves. Mayor Gehring stated that as the Board had been informed, Security Properties was no longer the developer for the library project and that the Town Center developer was excited to take on

the project. Mayor Gehring also thanked the Board for their patience during this long process and assured them that the library would be a key part in the heart of Town Center.

Mr. Jean stated that the city remains committed to meeting its obligation to the library system and presented two site options: one on the east side of Bridgeport and in the center of Town Center and the other on the west side of Bridgeport. It's the city's intent to build a civic building housing the library on the lower level and Town Hall on the upper level. There would be no residential housing. The city would prefer if the library choose the site on the east side of Bridgeport. He detailed particulars of both sites:

- West side: The library and city hall would be built on half of the property. Later retail will be added as a separate building. West side buildings were going to be later phase, but construction would start earlier if library chooses that site.
- East side: The library would be on the ground floor and city hall above, with underground parking beneath the library. The library would be located on Market Street, which is the core of Town Center.

Mr. Lichtman, developer of Town Center, spoke to his vision and intent for the library, stating that it was clear that the library system is interested in a quality building and quality location. There are shopping centers of all types throughout the country. His firm is interested in building things that last over time, with many attractors and diversity of interest. The library attracts a certain number of people per week and the hope is that people who go to the library will visit other parts of the project as well. A library is a quasi-public space. Although it has a specific purpose, it is also a gathering place. Shopping, residential, hotel, medical/dental office have been included in the Town Center vision to expand it beyond just a shopping place.

When Security Properties dropped out, Mr. Lichtman seriously considered taking on the role of developer. However, he felt the west side has a lot of inefficiencies (such as parking) and didn't allow for the library to stand out. He wishes for the library to be more central to the project. The library would be in a civic building and a civic center of the project. Because of library's extended hours and open weekends, the hope is that the library will help to keep the Plaza active. He stated that he was enthusiastically asking the Board to locate the library on the east side of Bridgeport and he wished to make sure it's a building and a presence consistent with the high quality they are planning on constructing in Town Center.

He reviewed specific details if the east side location was chosen:

- Dexler Road will become a more significant access. The library would have the double presence of Dexler and Bridgeport. Entrance and exit would be that of Market Street.
- City hall would be approximately 40,000 sq. ft.
- The library will be of a significant height and massing of the building will be 4 floors.
- People approaching Bridgeport would visually see that there's a taller building in the back. The building will have to stand out and be different than the buildings around it because it's a 'civic' building.
- He wants to create an inviting experience for people to walk; where pedestrians feel comfortable and safe.
- There's an interest in continuity of retail and continuity of public space, with the library having a strong draw and presence.

Mr. Lichtman noted that one of the library's criteria was for Bridgeport frontage. The east side location would not have direct Bridgeport front as it would have on the west side. In addition, construction could begin earlier on an east side location because it requires a great deal less site work than the west side location. Board members asked questions and discussed the options.

Ms. McCament moved to locate the University Place library on the proposed site located east of Bridgeport and in conjunction with city hall. Mr. Matsusaka seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Waiver of Conflict of Interest: William Holt of Gordon, Thomas Honeywell, appeared before the Board. Mr. Holt has been representing the library's interests in negotiations and legal matters related to the new University Place library, as well as other projects. He reported that the Town Center project developer is also represented by an attorney from Mr. Holt's firm. At first there was no conflict because the library's property was being developed by Security Properties. The firm's conflict committee reviewed the question and feels there is no conflict. The developer will be contracting with the city and the city will be contracting with the library system, so the library will not have a direct contractual relationship with the developer. There could be future possibilities for conflict of interest related to warranty issues and covenants.

Ms. McCament moved to authorize Neel Parikh to sign a waiver of conflict with Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell, Malanca, Peterson and Daheim LLP and continue to retain the firm's representation of the library system. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion and it was passed.

2. Levy Implementation Update: Georgia Lomax reviewed new services and databases available as part of the levy implementation plan, such as Overdrive, Newspapers Director and downloadable audiobooks. The Board was previously sent a report on progress of staff hiring for expanded branch open hours. Planning is ongoing to meet the goals 3 and 4 of the levy implementation plan. Mr. Wagner commented on the good publicity received and complimented Mary Getchell, Communications Director.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2007 Legislation Relating to Libraries and 2007 Legislative Day: Ms. Parikh distributed registration information for Library Legislative Day on March 8th. Library Legislative Day is an annual event where library staff and supporters have an opportunity to speak to legislators on legislative issues that impact libraries. Bills of primary interest include a proposal for a six-year lid lift. There are also property tax issues and a detrimental measure related to annexation by cities of areas where a library is located. If it were successful, the city would gain the building and collection with no recompense given to the library district. Legislators will take no action on issues related to Initiative 747 until the constitutionality case is heard and there is a ruling by the State Supreme Court.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:34 pm, Mr. Wagner moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations. Mr. Matsusaka seconded the motion and it was passed. Chair Rose announced the executive session would last approximately 30 minutes. The Board moved back into open session at 6:08 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENT

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

By motion from Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Matsusaka, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Secretary

Chair