

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM  
REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 9, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Allen Rose called to order the regular meeting of the Pierce County Rural Library District Board of Trustees on January 9, 2008, 3:31 pm. Board members present were Paul Chasco, Eugene Matsusaka, J.J. McCament and Budd Wagner.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Minutes of the December 12, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
2. Minutes of the December 27, 2007 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
3. December 2007 Payroll, Benefits and Vouchers in the total amount of \$2,457,411.24
  - a. Payroll Warrants 2601 - 2611 dated 12/06/07 – 12/21/07 in the amount of \$5,294.99
  - b. Payroll Disbursement Voucher dated 12/06/07 in the amount of \$480,387.76
  - c. Payroll Disbursement Voucher dated 12/21/07 in the amount of \$461,245.69
  - d. Accounts Payable Warrants: 600902 - 601278 dated 12/03/07 – 12/31/07 in the amount of \$1,510,482.80
4. The News Tribune and Pierce County Library System Sponsorship Agreement

The News Tribune and Pierce County Library System Sponsorship Agreement was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

Mr. Chasco moved for approval of the consent agenda, with the removal of The News Tribune and Pierce County System Sponsorship Agreement. Mr. Matsusaka seconded the motion and it was moved.

Neel Parikh and Mary Getchell briefly reviewed the background of the sponsorship agreement. Mr. Wagner moved for approval of The News Tribune and Pierce County Library System Sponsorship Agreement. Ms. McCament seconded the motion and it passed.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

**Budd Wagner:** Mr. Wagner congratulated the staff for the very positive editorial recently published by The News Tribune.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**Levy Implementation:** Georgia Lomax will give a detailed presentation on implementation of the levy at the February meeting. Mr. Wagner asked if there were any downloadable services available for iPod. Ms. Lomax reported that Apple is not willing as yet to work with libraries or firms that provide that kind of downloadable services.

**2008 Budget:** The Board was given copies of the published 2008 Budget of Revenue and Expenditure.

**Pierce County READS:** The author and book will be publicly announced on February 3, 2008.

**Buckley Branch:** Ms. Parikh distributed a photo of the recently remodeled Buckley branch.

**Lakewood Tapestry:** Ms. Parikh distributed a photo of the display of the tapestry artwork donated to the Lakewood Branch.

**City of Fife:** Ms. Parikh reported that during a conversation with Steve Worthington, City of Fife, he indicated that he remains interested in providing library services to Fife residents and is investigating services from Pierce County Library System or a stand-alone city library. Discussion by the city council will begin shortly.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 1. University Place Project:

*Project Update:* Georgia Lomax reported on the progress of the project. Efforts continue on the design plans and are going well. With the loss of the developer, there will be some changes to the process. For example, as it is now a public process it will have to go through the public bidding process that may extend the timeline for completion. The library has consistently assured library users that the branch will be built, but has now received a serious complaint from a gentleman who is frustrated at the lack of progress and believes the library should more actively communicate the situation. Mr. Chasco asked what library patrons were saying. Cindy Bonaro reported that there seems to be a lot of concern expressed to branch staff and fears that the library's reputation will be harmed. Mr. Chasco asked about comments about the temporary facility. Branch staff have received complaints about the lack of parking, noise levels and lack of space. There has also been concerns expressed about the parking garage and access to the new branch. Mr. Chasco asked that there be a discussion about concerns related to the temporary facility and if there are ways to alleviate the concerns. Mr. Matsusaka said that he uses the facility regularly and he does not feel a negative atmosphere.

*Mayor Linda Bird and Bob Jean, City Administrator:* Mr. Chasco welcomed them to the meeting and stated how he admired the city's commitment to create Town Center. Mayor Bird reported that the city had terminated its agreement with the developer. The city is now in control of the entire project and intends to remain in full control of the civic portions, including the library. One of the primary reasons the city chose to terminate with the developer was because the developer asked to be released from his agreement to locate the library on the east side of Bridgeport. The city refused and as there were a other issues as well, agreed to terminate the relationship. The city hopes to start construction on the civic building in late summer and have the library open in late 2009. She reiterated that the city is very committed to building the library. The city will be holding a public meeting to discuss the entire Town Center project with its citizenry on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Bird invited the library to attend the meeting.

Mr. Jean had a chance to review design details and the architectural work completed by Bob Wagoner. There are consultant and contractor relationships that will have to be sorted out. There will be some redesign costs. Specifications should go out to bid in late summer and construction begin in late fall. Ms. McCament asked about the expansion space. Mr. Jean said that the courtyard space is being designed between two buildings and will be available for library expansion. The city would build the expansion, and the library would reimburse the city over a 10 year period.

Mr. Jean stated that the PCLS staff has been great to work with and the Board extremely patient. The city is about 30% toward completion of all the work that had to be done. He is convinced that the termination is not a sign of failure, but a turning point for the success of Town Center. The city will not put the library at risk. The city is very much on schedule at this time. He is anxious to get a new developer on board. Mr. Chasco noted that he wants to ensure there is no fiscal impact to the library, that the financial liability has not changed and that the quality of the construction maintains as high a

quality as originally intended. He hopes that 2009 remains the construction goal. Mr. Jean noted that the impact of costs of library staff time will remain, but there should be no other additional costs. He intends that the quality of library will be equal to, if not better, than the old facility. Ms. Parikh noted that the library has only asked that quality be equal to what had been available in the torn-down branch. Mr. Matsusaka asked if Mr. Jean was confident that the city will be able to find a developer that will develop something that is not a strip mall. Mr. Jean noted that he is very confident as the interest appears to be high in the project.

Chair Rose thanked Mayor Bird and Mr. Jean for attending and updating them on the situation.

*Capital Campaign Report:* Lynne Hoffman, Pierce County Library System Foundation Director and capital campaign consultant Laura Edman, Alford Group reported on the progress of the campaign. Ms. Edman stated that a study done in the summer indicated there was enough positive support in University Place for a capital campaign to be successful. This will be the first capital campaign undertaken in the library system's history. The cost of the campaign will be about 20% of the goal and the cost will come from funds raised. It's currently a \$750,000 campaign goal. The foundation is focusing on the top 7 or 8 donors that might be interested. They are looking at those people who are the closest to the organization. The foundation board members and trustees are already invested in the library and the campaign and should step up to the plate with 100% participation. Focus will be on individual giving and specifically, individuals from University Place. Funds will be spent for enhancements to children's areas, early literacy area, and teen area. The conference room is slated to become a strong resource to the community, including communication capabilities, smart boards, computers available and a video learning environment. Mr. Chasco asked if the recent events will affect the time table for the campaign. Ms. Edman noted that as they are first approaching individual donors, it allows time for one on one discussion to reassure donors of the project's viability and future.

**2. Puyallup Public Library Reciprocal Borrowing Pilot Project Review:** Ms. Parikh distributed a report prepared by Puyallup Public Library. Puyallup Board met yesterday and recommended that the reciprocal borrowing project continue. Ms. Parikh reported that PCLS people are drawn to PPL because of access to computers and proximity to the park and events in the area. Ms. Parikh spoke to how circulation trends are beginning to flatten out for PPL. Less than 1% of the items are returned to the wrong library.

Ms. Parikh recommended that the Board approve continuation of the reciprocal borrowing agreement. She noted that staff would present periodic reports back to the board on process. Ms. McCament noted that she is thrilled by the success of the pilot project.

Ms. McCament moved that Pierce County Library System and Puyallup Public Library enter into an agreement for reciprocal borrowing on an ongoing basis. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion and it passed. Chair Rose called for discussion

Mr. Chasco requested that the agreement include an evaluation period and a matrix for measures.

The Board then voted unanimously to enter into an ongoing reciprocal borrowing agreement between Pierce County Library System and the Puyallup Public Library.

Mr. Chasco requested that the chair write a short letter to the Mayor of Puyallup recognizing their open approach and willingness to practice good government in cooperation with other government entities, and further, to complement their staff.

**3. Tacoma Public Library Reciprocal Borrowing Considerations:** Ms. Parikh distributed a revised document related to issues and concerns. Ms. Parikh reported on a conversation with the Director of Tacoma Public Library. The director indicated that the TPL board expected the PCLS board to attend its regular meeting and give a presentation. The PCLS Board indicated its preference for a formal joint

meeting that allows discussion. The TPL director believes their board is not receptive to the idea of reciprocal borrowing. Chair Rose felt it important that the Board continue in its efforts. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the full Board would attend the meeting and that a formal proposal be presented.

Mr. Chasco would like to see an opening statement by each of the chairs that sets the position to engage dialog. He would like to see a discussion from PCLS about why they are there to discuss reciprocal borrowing and its benefits to TPL, what PCLS sees as an adverse impact to PCLS and that PCLS is willing to take the added risk on an interim basis, and ask TPL what benefits they may see and any objections they might have to a reciprocal borrowing agreement. He would like a map that shows where boundaries abut and where their might be a flow of patron exchange. He suggested ending the joint meeting by giving TPL the proposal and offering to work out difficulties.

The Board discussed possible benefits to TPL, including access to downloadable movies and audio books, Sunday hours and live online homework help. TPL expressed concerns related to service to residents in Northeast Tacoma, loss rate, items returned to wrong library, reserve policies, and revenue loss from non-resident fees.

Ms. McCament suggested that the proposal be based on the PPL pilot project, with modifications to meet TPL's special needs, such as not including holds and not allowing check out of DVDs. Ms. Parikh was directed to prepare a handout detailing issues and concerns. Ms. Parikh will work on a Q & A. Chair Rose noted that PCLS wants this to work. It benefits both systems and is good for Tacoma patrons and PCLS patrons and is in the best interests of both communities.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2008 Board Calendar of Work:** The Board discussed issues they would like to discuss in 2008, including capital facilities planning, possible resources to fund capital projects, reciprocal borrowing with the City of Roy and a presentation on future trends by a futurist.

**2. Communication with the Board Between Meetings or Via Email:** Ms. Parikh requested guidance on the type of information the Board would like to receive via email between Board meetings. She noted that the emails must be a one-way update only, with no conversations between Board members. The Board requested updates that were timely, brief, project-based and not detail-oriented.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:50 pm Mr. Wagner moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations. Mr. Chasco seconded the motion and it was passed. Chair Rose announced the executive session would last approximately 15 minutes. The executive session was extended an additional 10 minutes and moved back into open session at 6:21 pm.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm on motion by Mr. Wagner, seconded by Mr. Chasco.

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Secretary

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Chair