

Bellevue Library Advisory Board Minutes

November 17, 2015

Board Members present. Chad Davis, Peter Maxim, Barbara Spindel, Judy Bailey, Loretta Lopez; Alice Tow, Cris Dreher

KCLS Staff present. Debi Westwood, Amy Egger

Bellevue Friends of the Library (BFOL). Carol Stromberg

Members of the Public. Sally Holmes

Minutes for October . Loretta Lopez sent to Jennifer Roberston for review since Jennifer attended the October Meeting and the minutes summarize Jennifer's statements.

1. **Announcements of BFOL.** Carol Stromberg reported that Trisha Morehouse was recognized as Friend of the Year by the BFOL. Carol reminded all of the BFOL Holiday Tea on December 4th and the BFOL Holiday Book Sale on December 4th and 5th.
2. **Format of the Meetings.** Peter Maxim suggested that we review the format of the meetings. He suggested that we address new business and then provide opportunity for comment by the public at the start of the meetings.
3. **Public comment.** Sally Holmes commented upon the level of noise in the library. She gave an example of a patron who was talking loudly on his phone. The Board discussed the policies about noise. Chad Davis suggested to Sally that the KCLS Board may be the forum for such complaints.
4. **Minutes/Purpose and Function of the Board.** The Board discussed whether a Board member should continue to prepare minutes or whether the Board should request assistance from the City. In the case of the Library Board as opposed to other City Boards, KCLS provides the staff as opposed to the City providing staff. Loretta Lopez suggested that we meet at City Hall so that City staff can easily attend and assist with preparing minutes of the meetings. The Board pointed out that it is more likely that library patrons will attend Library Advisory Board Meetings if we meet at the libraries. Loretta agreed.

Peter Maxim stated that the issue of preparation of the minutes raises the issue of whether we should have City staff support. Debi Westwood responded that the City Clerk's would be the group providing staff.

Amy Egger stated that there is a gap between the City and the Library and that the same issue occurs with other Library Advisory Boards.

Cris Dreher asked: What kind of support do we need? Do we need support from the library or from the City?

Barbara Spindel stated that it would be of value to know whether other Library Advisory Boards have City staff attend meetings.

Peter Maxim stated that we have to decide whether we want to make decisions, and decide the type of decisions we want to make. He further added that we need to determine our authority for decision making.

Carol Stromberg offered her observation that there seems to be some confusion about the role of the Advisory Board.

Chad Davis added that perhaps the City could offer more support and guidance on our purpose.

Peter Maxim stated that when he was on the Park Board that the City staff asked the Park Board Members for their opinions. Peter pointed out that the library staff does not ask us for our opinions.

Cris Dreher asked for clarification of the purpose of the Advisory Board, He asked whether we are supposed to make decisions or only offer advice.

Debi Westwood responded that the governing by laws set forth that the Advisory Board serves as a liaison between the library and the City.

Amy Egger stated that in her experience some Advisory Boards focus on particular areas. She suggested that we invite Jennifer Wiseman, KCLS staff member, to our next meeting to discuss.

Barbara Spindel pointed out that Jennifer Wiseman has attended a Board meeting in the past.

Judy Bailey stated that when we have met with other Advisory Boards there are discussions but then no follow up. She suggested that KCLS make more use of the yearly Advisory Board Forum. She pointed out that for example, not many people attend the KCLS Budget Meetings which are typically held after the Advisory Board Forum.

Peter Maxim gave an example of suggestions that we might make to KCLS such as providing services to communities with non-ambulatory residents.

Judy Bailey pointed out that the KCLS staff could ask for comments from the Board on the KCLS website.

Barbara Spindel agreed with Judy.

Debi Westwood pointed out that the Advisory Board is not a governing board. Debi expressed frustration that in her experience that the Board does not offer suggestions on Agenda items.

Cris Dreher stated that the City of Bellevue is changing and that the City of Bellevue has information to offer to KCLS. He referred to the work that Bellevue has done to create Diversity training and how KCLS might benefit from knowing more about the classes.

Peter Maxim stated that we don't know what the library is doing in advance of actions.

Debi Westwood responded that the library hasn't needed to Advisory Board members to be involved in decisions.

Barbara Spindel stated that we don't have structure on how the Board operates. She asked whether we should talk to the City about the issue of how we should operate. She further asked are we supposed to be advising KCLS? She pointed out that we do not appear before KCLS Board to represent Bellevue.

Amy Egger stated that the Board members should refer concerns to library staff. She suggested that the Board might want to advocate before the KCLS Board for certain services.

Cris Dreher stated that we need to work on the issue of defining our purpose at next month's meeting.

Chad Davis asked if we ask questions whether Debi is responding as KCLS or as Bellevue Library.

Debi Westwood responded that if the issue is about general services provided then she is responding as KCLS. But if the issue is about particular points at a Bellevue Library then she is responding as Bellevue Library. Debi cited the example of trick or treating at Crossroads Library as a particular point.

Chad Davis asked about programmatic decisions. He asked whether the decisions are system wide?

Amy Egger responded that there is a multi-layer approach to making decisions.

Judy Bailey suggested that we continue the discussion about the purpose and function of the Board at our next meeting.

5. Future Minutes. Cris Dreher offered to record future meetings and prepare the minutes.

6. Next Meeting Location. The next meeting will be January 19, 2016 at Lake Hills Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25

Submitted by Loretta Lopez, Secretary