

Bellevue Library Board Minutes
September 16, 2014

Present:

Board: Judy Bailey, Chad Davis, Cris Dreher, Alice Lee, Loretta Lopez, Peter Maxim,
Barbara Spindel
KCLS: Debra Westwood
Guests: Karen Kenny (filling in for Tricia Morehouse-Miller)
Absent Board: Alice Lee

President, Judy Bailey called the meeting to order at 5:02PM.
The minutes from July (there is no meeting in August) were approved as written.

Loretta reported visiting Montesano, Raymond and Palo Alto Public Libraries in California. She noted seeing a Friends system that functioned on selling books on an honor system.

Alice asked about the broken windows at Crossroads Library. Debi reported that the police were following up on the incident, caused by a beer bottle) and the window was being replaced.

There was a discussion about Carnegie libraries. These libraries were funded by Andrew Carnegie, with a total of 2509 built between 1883 and 1929. Debi pointed out that these libraries were built for another era and are difficult to modernize. Many are protected as historic landmarks which further complicates modernization.

Board members shared the importance of libraries to them personally and how they see their roles and their vision for public libraries in the future. Some of the thoughts shared were:

We should be representing patrons, not in an adversarial way but by making recommendations. Libraries provide access to the world and should be available at no cost. Unlimited free access to books makes a difference in people's lives

There are more and more ways that libraries can be accessed which means that libraries are changing for kids today and we need to make sure we meet their emerging needs.

We need to ensure that the public is able to use all the resources available, regardless of language and that libraries connect with their local communities. The library serving as a community meeting place is a great thing and allowing food and drink has added to that.

Libraries need to be safe for kids.

The decline in literacy is a great concern and libraries can play a significant role in reversing that trend.

Libraries need to reflect the communities they serve.

We need to look at ways we can influence the direction of funding for library services.

Concern was expressed about e-books and the need to encourage reading rather than watching television because of the importance of developing visualization skills that are fostered by reading.

Libraries foster sharing information and help to create an informed society.

Debi reported on the success of the August 14th Chow Down Food Truck Round-up event. Between 2000 and 4000 people visited the park and provided great people to people interchange which was a primary goal of the event. The truck operators were delightful and so successful that they ran out of food by the end of the night. City Councilwoman Lynn Robinson talked about the possibility of more things the library could do in partnership with the city. The Bellevue Friends provided funding for the Dysfunction Junction Blue Grass Band which was very well received. Library2Go van was there and gave out 10 new library cards. People asked when the event would be done again and Debi thought probably the same time next year. There were very few complaints.

Debi asked if the Board wanted to continue receiving traffic and circulation statistics. We asked if we could get them 4 or 5 days prior to the meeting so we could review them and have a more informed discussion at the meeting. This month's figures showed overall circulation down but downloads up.

Debi reported on the construction progress of the Lake Hills garage. The underground parking will be closed soon. There will be clear signage directing patrons where to park and enter the building. There will be a new elevator with an expanded deck. The book drop will have a new location. The old deck will have to be sawed off and the library will close for 2-3 days, hopefully in mid-October. They have closed off meeting room availability until the dates are confirmed but SAT Prep classes are already scheduled and they will not close the library then.

Debi reported on the search for a new KCLS Director. The whole process has been very quiet, especially because some candidates did not want their names made public. There are currently 5 finalists. When the search is narrowed to 3 public meetings will be set up, possibly in January.

Friends' Day is Saturday October 18th, from 8:30 – 1PM. It is hosted by the KCLS Foundation and is only open to the Friends.

Debi announced Advisory Board Forums were coming up:
Tuesday, November 4 starting at 5:30pm at the Auburn Library
Wednesday, November 5 starting at 5:30pm at the Shoreline Library
Following these meetings, there will be a budget forum.

Debi distributed Advisory Board pins to new members as well as notebooks and notepads for all.
Business cards for new members were not ready.

Bellevue Friends have a Vintage Book Sale coming up September 26th, 27th and 28th
There are several hundred first editions and lots of old books priced at 1/5 their value.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Spindel

Next meeting: October 21, 2014
Lake Hills Library 5PM