

City of Bellevue Library Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting Minutes January 18, 2022

Opening

The regular monthly meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order at 5:07 PM on January 18, 2022 by the Board President. The meeting was virtual using Zoom.

Meeting Attendance

Board Members Present: Chad Davis, Stefan Sharkansky, Sarah Rock, Ankit Saraf, Gunjan Muraka and Kim Anderson

Board Members Absent: Jim Rusk

KCLS Representatives: John Sheller

Friends of the Bellevue Library: None

Newport Way Library Association: Kim Anderson

Guests: Barbara Spindel and Kirsten Corning

Introductions

Meeting kicked off with a quick round of welcome.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the last scheduled meeting in November 2021 were not presented and will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting in February for approval.

Public Comment Period

Barbara Spindel was a guest at the meeting and raised a concern regarding the KCLS Board of Trustees. Her concern was that KCLS will likely ask for a levy lift in an upcoming election and the libraries were not yet fully open. Further, when she attended a Board of Trustees meeting, the Finance Committee meeting was not open to the public to attend. Her concern was that the Finance Committee's discussions were of significant interest to the public, and that the meetings were not open to the public because the attendance at the committee meetings were less than a quorum. As a result of the lack of quorum, the meeting did not need to be open to the public. The discussion among the Board members noted:

- that the Finance Committee should be able to have private sessions and remain in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, but that convening meetings with less than a quorum was not the appropriate method to do so;
- if KCLS wants a levy lift, they should provide the public with the detail of the needs and the strategy of KCLS; and
- the Board of Trustees appears to be more ceremonial, rather than an active overseer of KCLS.

The Board determined that the Board President will draft a letter to Councilmember Jennifer Robertson outlining the concerns raised in this discussion.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Agenda Item #1: Kirsten Corning presentation

Ms. Corning outlined the 2022 plans for the Lakeview Region of KCLS.

- There will be new library schedules beginning at the end of February
 - There will be a Bellevue library open every day of the week;
- Library programming is anticipated to begin in March;
- In-person programming is expected to begin no earlier than April;
- A director for MakerSpace in the main Bellevue library has been hired;
- She provided an overview of upcoming programs within the libraries in the Lakeview Region;
- She outlined the KCLS Foundation pilot program focused on having a person on-site to assist persons experiencing homelessness or having similar needs
 - Based on other programs, this type of program has been shown to be more effective
 - Contracting with Peer Kent for the staffing

Ms. Corning left the meeting following her presentation.

Agenda Item #2: Meeting Notes

Chad Davis discussed the level of detail contained in our meeting minutes, in order to ensure that the public has a good understanding of what happened during the meeting. The members of the Board discussed this point and agree that meeting minutes should include a greater level of detail.

REPORTS

Reports 1 – Bellevue Friends of Library report

While Susan was not able to be present, the Board was informed that the corner shop is now open two days each week. Lake Hills has begun accepting donations every Tuesday.

Reports 2 – Newport Way Library Association report

Newport Way now accepts donations on Tuesday and Wednesday, and recently approved its budget to provide the Newport Way library staff with more certainty with respect to funding for programming.

Reports 3 – Bellevue Library staff reports

John had no other updates.

NEW BUSINESS

Chad Davis noted that Newport Way library recently opened late with a handwritten note on the door. There was a break-in at the library (items from the back room were stolen, including the safe) and the Board asked John to provide more of an update at the next meeting.

Stefan notified that Board that he was moving out of Bellevue and would therefore be stepping down from the Board. The Board members thanked Stefan for his service, his hard work and willingness to dig into the details of KCLS reports.

Adjournment

The meeting was motioned to be adjourned by Kim Anderson and seconded by Gunjan Muraka. The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Meeting Agenda: Will be distributed by Ankit Saraf, President, before the next meeting.

Minutes Submitted: By Kim Anderson, acting Board Secretary