

TIMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Centralia Timberland Library, 110 So. Silver St., Centralia, WA 98531

February 28, 2001

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Janelle Williams, President; Art Blauvelt; Ken Bragg; Bill Lawrence; Doug Mah; Peggy Meyer; Pat Shults

STAFF PRESENT: Liane Bascou; Kristin Blalack; Jinny Burns; Judy Covell; Ellen Duffy; Margo Eytinge; Susan Hanson; Cheryl Heywood; Leanne Ingle; Corene Jones-Litteer; Thelma Kruse; Sally Nash; Tina Roose; Kitty Schiltz; Sandra Sebbas; Jan Sterner; Liz Stroup; Jena Thrasher; Nancy Triplett; Mike Wessells; Barbara Winfree; Art Wuerth

GUESTS PRESENT: Claudia Alongi; Jean Davies; Carolyn Dobbs; Dorothy Doyle; Russell Fox; Robert Godsey; Sandy Godsey; Eric Johnson; Jan Lawrence; Doris Lodwig; Pat Maninfior; Mike McDonald; Bill Moeller; Becky Morrison; Marian Osterby; Beverly Sexsmith; Mary Stough; Nancy Wigley

President Williams called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM

NO.

- 1 Introductions were made.
- 2 Focus on Centralia

Ms. Burns welcomed everyone to Centralia. The library is in the middle of exciting times as we look for ways to provide service through new approaches and attitudes.

- 3 Correspondence and Public Comments

A. Certificates of Appreciation

Bill Lawrence has resigned from the TRL Board effective February 28, 2001. Prior to the meeting there was a reception attended by many long-time TRL supporters, friends, and current and former Board members and staff. Ms. Williams spoke about the Washington Library Friends and Trustees Association Distinguished Service Award Mr. Lawrence received several years ago, citing some of his accomplishments (the idea of recycling a library and barging it from Belfair to Hoodspoint, integrating Coastal Indian art and themes into the design of the Amanda Park Library, and helping establish the TRL Foundation). Mr. Lawrence has served as a TRL Trustee for a total of 21 years plus he was involved with the TRL Demonstration Board, with a break in service 1977-1987. The TRL Board presented him with a gift of a silkscreen print "Red Wolf" by Yukie Adams in appreciation of his 21 years of service and visionary leadership. Ms. Kruse said that several years ago Mr. Lawrence suggested that the Board honor staff with a Golden Tree Award recognizing significant accomplishments. She presented him with a "Golden Forest Award" from the TRL staff which states: "For your passionate advocacy of library service for all; strong leadership in creating and maintaining a unified District; innovative and visionary ideas; collaborative and

- 3A cooperative decision-making; ardent support and recognition of library staff throughout your 21 years of dedicated service to Timberland Regional Library on behalf of the Timberland Regional Library Staff.” She offered her personal thanks for Mr. Lawrence’s support, friendship and advice. Ms. Roose reiterated the support Mr. Lawrence has always shown for staff. She presented him with three gifts from staff, including a wooden box and pen set engraved with his name, the TRL logo and dates of service; a framed picture of the Belfair library being barged to its new home in Hoodspport engraved “The impossible is something that has never been tried”; and a memory book with pictures, cards and mementos. Several others spoke expressing their thanks to Mr. Lawrence for his time, energy and accomplishments and for his service to his community and the library district. Speakers included Bill Moeller, Centralia City Councilmember; Robert Godsey, who was a TRL Demonstration Board member; former TRL Board members Carolyn Dobbs and Jean Davies; former TRL Director Becky Morrison; former Centralia Library building supervisor Marian Osterby; TRL Board members Doug Mah, Art Blauvelt, and Ken Bragg; library building supervisors Kristin Blalack (Yelm), Jinny Burns (Centralia), Sally Nash (Tumwater), and Kitty Schiltz (Chehalis); and Regional Library Manager Mike Wessells. Eric Johnson presented a Certificate to Mr. Lawrence on behalf of the Lewis County Commissioners.

Mr. Lawrence expressed his appreciation. He said he tossed out ideas, but it is the execution of the ideas that really count. Staff was receptive, they listened, and they were generous with their time. One way to measure staff’s dedication and hard work are the five major national awards that TRL has received—two for architectural designs for the Amanda Park and North Mason Libraries; and three John Cotton Dana awards from the American Library Association which are based on service (a film explaining how to use the card catalog; transportation by barge of the North Mason Library to Hoodspport; and “Different by Design” for the North Mason Library). TRL has technologically moved into the 21st century with its computer system, software, and upgraded telephone system. Mr. Lawrence said that it was smooth riding at first, but then we hit a chuckhole with warnings about slippery slopes and dangerous curves. The TRL Board was divided on these issues. The Board was able to eventually reach consensus and move on to other pressing issues. He sees consensus as a democratic process with both sides giving, and he hopes the Board will continue to come to consensus in this manner. He said this is an unprecedented time in the history of TRL. Two trustees are being replaced in a matter of months. There is a challenge for the TRL Foundation to integrate private money with public money. He commended Janelle Williams’ contributions to the Foundation and helping develop a good grassroots program in the five counties. Mr. Lawrence presented to Director Kruse his carving of Raven, and told the story of this important icon in the history of the first people in the Pacific Northwest. The library has the same mission as Raven by bringing light through enlightenment.

The meeting recessed at 8:00 p.m. and reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

Ms. Williams presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following who have completed terms on their respective local library boards: Janessa Frazee, Centralia; Donna Michalak, McCleary; Pam Ekrem, South Bend; Maureen Goldsmith, Tenino; Sonja Zimmer, Tumwater.

B. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3 C. Board Comments

Mr. Mah requested an item, energy conservation, be added to the Agenda under New Business.

Mr. Blauvelt reported that he testified at the state legislature last week against amendments to the Harmful to Minors Bill (HB 1316), which would have eliminated the exemption for libraries. It is his opinion that this bill would kill Internet in libraries because of the many restrictions that would be placed on the use of Internet and the criminal sanctions on librarians and volunteers because of the conduct of other people. Mr. Bragg said he was also present at this hearing. He offered written comments suggesting an alternative of adopting what the Ellensburg Library has done which prohibits Internet access in public libraries to children without parental approval. Mr. Bragg referred to last month's meeting minutes regarding the RFP for developing a funding plan for facilities development and operations. He hopes that TRL will continue with the RFP but narrow the scope to focus on high priorities as suggested by Mr. Mah. Mr. Bragg referred to the responses to questions he had raised from the Business Manager. The issue he was trying to understand is whether or not we are adjusting the amount of taxes that might not be collected in the current year in order to take care of the problem if the assessed value changed between December 20 and the meeting on January 10. Ms. Meyer reported that she and Ms. Kruse testified before the legislature on February 19 regarding the issue of the election of trustees. Prior to her testimony, she said Mr. Bragg testified that at TRL parents have no control over their children's access to Internet. She found that testimony confusing since TRL has such a specific policy that the Board adopted. Mr. Bragg responded that he testified that parental approval was not required by TRL. Ms. Meyer said TRL has certainly given parents an opportunity to express their wishes about their children's access and that Mr. Bragg's testimony did not make that clear.

D. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

4 Approval of Minutes

01-08 ART BLAUVELT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF JANUARY 24, 2001, AS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD; BILL LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5 Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

6 New Business

A. WCIF Insurance

Due to an increase in premium rates, there is a shift to self-insurance of several medical plans offered through the Washington Counties Insurance Fund. In order for TRL to participate in these four different plans, the TRL Board needs to approve an Interlocal Agreement.

- 6A
01-09 ART BLAUVELT MOVED TO APPROVE THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT CREATING THE WASHINGTON COUNTIES INSURANCE POOL; DOUG MAH SECONDED THE MOTION.

Ms. Thrasher explained that the only other option TRL would have is to offer only Group Health, which is not available in the entire district. We have already held an open enrollment period. She provided a further explanation of how the insurance pool will work. The self-insured plans fit in with the costs approved by the TRL Board last December. To date, 90-95% of the WCIF members have approved and signed the Interlocal Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. TRL Board Meeting Minutes and Agenda Structure

Mr. Mah submitted a proposed agenda.

- 01-10 DOUG MAH MOVED TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA; BILL LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Mah explained the proposed agenda, which is based on agendas used by other public entities. Major changes from the Board's current agenda structure include approval of the agenda, a consent calendar in which the Board would approve several items in one motion, recessing to a work session for discussion of new business items, and review of the calendar and events. After further discussion

- 01-11 ART BLAUVELT MOVED TO TABLE THIS MATTER AND REQUESTED DOUG MAH FORMAT THE PROPOSED AGENDA AS A WORD DOCUMENT AND SEND TO BOARD MEMBERS; KEN BRAGG SECONDED THE MOTION. ART BLAUVELT, KEN BRAGG, DOUG MAH, PEGGY MEYER, PAT SHULTS AND JANELLE WILLIAMS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; BILL LAWRENCE ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIED.

There was no discussion regarding the minutes structure.

C. Energy Conservation

Mr. Mah said that a few weeks ago Governor Locke issued an executive order requesting public agencies and jurisdictions to reduce their energy consumption by 10%. He would like to see TRL take steps to reduce energy consumption in all TRL facilities.

- 01-12 DOUG MAH MOVED THAT THE TRL BOARD FULLY SUPPORTS THE GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVE TO CONSERVE ENERGY AND DIRECTS THE DIRECTOR TO IMPLEMENT AN ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM WITH THE GOAL OF REDUCING POWER CONSUMPTION BY 10% IN ALL TRL FACILITIES; BILL LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Ms. Kruse said she is not sure that we can save 10% throughout the district since we don't have complete control over energy consumption in city-owned buildings. There are measures we are already taking, such as requesting that computers be turned off at night. Mr. Mah said

- 6C that as stewards of public resources, we should demonstrate our willingness to conserve energy. He suggested highlighting the issue in the employee newsletter providing suggestions and reminders to staff. He urged the Board to support this motion and encouraged staff to make efforts to conserve energy throughout the day both at work and at home.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7 Reports

A. Regional Planning Councils

Mr. Mah reported that TRPC is reviewing a Public Disclosure Commission educational workshop. TRPC had asked of PDC at what point of developing the regional transportation finance plan does the study effort become a valid issue campaign or document not appropriate for TRPC members and staff involvement. The workshop would help educate elected officials and staff on this particular issue. TRL Board members may be interested in attending. One of the issues that TRPC and other Thurston County jurisdictions are looking at is the redrawing of Intercity Transit's boundaries. This would eliminate public transit service to a vast majority of unincorporated areas of Thurston County. This is being done in response to fiscal issues and Mr. Mah thinks it may have an impact on TRL's ability to provide service to those outside of the growth management area.

B. Services and Facilities Committee

The Services and Facilities Committee met with Yelm representatives. They reviewed the floor plan of the proposed library. TRL staff have been negotiating with Yelm City officials regarding several matters. It was agreed that the Board would go into Executive Session at the end of this meeting to discuss this matter further.

C. ESD 113

A copy of Ms. Covell's report "Timberland Partnership with ESD 113 Progress Report" is attached to the original of these minutes. This federal grant-supported partnership is providing public library service in rural school district communities. Ms. Schiltz and Mr. Wessells reported on the excitement in these rural communities to be receiving brand new materials and library service.

Mr. Lawrence asked if today's earthquake would impact the city's attitude toward rehabilitating the Chehalis Library. Ms. Schiltz said there are several cracks and a broken water pipe. The city will examine the building to make sure it is safe for staff to return.

D. 2000 Final Action Plan Report

E. 2001 Action Plan

The 2000 Final Action Plan Report and the 2001 Action Plan were presented. The 2001 Action Plan is in a different format and is based on recommendations from the Services and Facilities Needs Assessments, the Internet Access Action Plan and the Cost Savings and Efficiency Review. Staff will be reporting on progress on a quarterly basis.

7 F. Director

01-13 PEGGY MEYER MOVED TO APPROVE PAYROLL AND PAYROLL RELATED VOUCHERS NO. 25938 THROUGH NO. 26256 FOR JANUARY 2001 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$774,400.50; KEN BRAGG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.


01-14 PEGGY MEYER MOVED TO APPROVE VENDOR VOUCHERS NO. 64127 THROUGH NO. 64429 FOR FEBRUARY 2001 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$376,187.08; BILL LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Ms. Meyer requested information on why the general fund revenues received in January 2001 of \$144,000 is so much lower than the \$279,000 received for the same period last year. Mr. Wuerth will check into this matter and report on his findings. Mr. Bragg asked how receipt of delinquent taxes from the prior year are reported. Mr. Wuerth explained that delinquent taxes are reported under property taxes without a separate distinction. He does not know what the delinquency rate is for each county. Mr. Bragg requested further clarification outside of this meeting.


MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The January 2001 Revenues and Expenditures report was presented. Ms. Stroup reported on the progress of Virtual Reference. The six large libraries are now able to switch calls to the Virtual Reference office at the Aberdeen Library, which has answered 3,000 questions in the first month. We are targeting homeschoolers and seniors before doing a mass publicity campaign about this new service.

The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing negotiations with the City of Yelm regarding the new Yelm Library. The Executive Session ended at 9:55 p.m. There was no further business and the meeting adjourned.



President



Secretary

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