



241 SE 7th
Street
Madras, OR
97741

JEFFERSON COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY

August 15, 2017

Board members present: Guy Chittenden, Karen Esvelt, Stephen Hillis, Susan Stovall, and Bill Vollmer
Library Director: DeRese Hall

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by board chair Stephen Hillis. There was no public comment.

While waiting for Guy Chittenden to arrive (who had called to say that he was on his way), there was discussion on a Community Read (CR) issue.

CR is a board appointed committee that is having leadership difficulties – no one officially wants to be in charge. After the resignation of the former chair, the committee has conducted business as a group effort. The unofficial leader of the group has now said that she can no longer do as much as she has been doing. This issue has come to the board in order to get some guidance. A recommendation was made to advertise for more committee members hoping that possibly someone new will come in and be willing to lead the committee. This suggestion will be passed on to the current committee. Hillis expressed his opinion that if the committee continues to have difficulties, the board would need to step forward with an article about CR in the hopes of getting it back on track.

2. Unfinished Business

Building Project

Hillis began this discussion by presenting a print out of general questions to help guide the discussion in regards to the district beginning a building project. Questions and discussion included:

- 1) Yes, the board wishes to enhance the library for both staff and patrons. The annex was also discussed as being a vital part of the library that (because it isn't attached) is sometimes overlooked. No matter what enhancements might be done to the library, whether it be increasing the staff area in the original building or going out and beginning an entirely new building project, community support was deemed to be of the utmost importance.
- 2) Yes, the former Westside School is considered to be a good place for a library due to its location and accessibility. The idea of a community campus is also appealing.
- 3) It is hoped that, with library assets and the availability of grants, going out for a bond measure would not be necessary. A small bond measure might be considered if it were to complete the project.
- 4) Potential concerns for building on the current location included complying with flood plain regulations, additional funds that would be needed because of those same regulations, site preparation which would include the removal of the annex, the fact that staying on 7th Street would be disregarding the expert's recommendations (Mackenzie), and the possibility of losing current opportunities (Westside).
- 5) If the library were to move to Westside, potential concerns would include autonomy, competition over grant monies, what land might be earmarked for the library, whether or not there would be any space for future library expansion, and the difference in philosophy between a "free" library and charging for services by other entities.
- 6) The library district's current assets are its properties and the money that is in the Building and Improvement Fund.
- 7) The board would like to continue discussing the building potential at Westside.
- 8) The board chair would like everyone's input on concerns and questions for the Bean Foundation. After this meeting, he will work with the director to update his initial list of questions and that update will be emailed to the entire board. Additional items will be added as requested by the group and then the completed list will be finalized and emailed to the appropriate parties.

3. New Business

There was no new business.

4. Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, September 12 at 4:00, is the next regular board meeting.

5. Other

No issues except the CR issue that was discussed earlier.

6. Adjournment

It was moved and seconded (Susan Stovall/Karen Esvelt) to adjourn the meeting at 5:44. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
DeRese Hall