

Present: David Short, Fred Baldwin, Sharon Callen, Terry Huber, Dick Raymond, Rick Slaven,
David White, Anisha Adke

Staff Present: Bill Baars, Beverly Ross

Others: Councilor Mary Olson, Maria Meneghin, Darrel Condra

The Library Advisory Board meeting was called to order by Chair David Short at 7:00 p.m. on December 12, 2012.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Introductions

None.

3. Approval of Minutes – September 12, 2012

Fred Baldwin made a motion, seconded by Rick Slaven, to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2012 meeting. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – October 10, 2012

Fred Baldwin made a motion, seconded by Rick Slaven, to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2012 meeting. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – November 14, 2012

Minutes were not available for review.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Director's Report

Library Director Bill Baars gave the Directors report as follows:

- Today the Library held its annual Holiday Open House with the Three Rivers Singers performing and cookies and cocoa served. It is always a fun occasion and Baars thanked the Friends of the Library for sponsoring the event and for their sponsorship of so many of the Library's programs.
- Two long time members of the full time staff are retiring at the end of the month. Judy Barnum has been in the Circulation Department for over 20 years and Donna Ainslie, Manager of the Circulation Department, retires after 29 years with the Library. Both have seen great changes in the Library and will be missed for their institutional knowledge. Ainslie has been a strong advocate for intellectual freedom and her tenure as Library Manager will be hard to duplicate.
- The last day for the current City Council, including the Library's liaison Mary Olson, is December 18.

6. Chair's Report

None.

7. LO Reads

Library Director Bill Baars gave the report on LO Reads:

- The LO Reads Steering Committee has done a great job in planning a strong list of programs. The brochure with the calendar of events is nearly complete.

- One of the programs will feature Lake Oswego resident, Lopez Lomong, who will share his story as a “Lost Boy of the Sudan” who overcame extraordinary odds and adversity to become an American citizen and flag-bearer for the U.S. team in the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Olympics.
- One of the title sponsors is Step It Up Studios. The studio will host a music and dance event celebrating the traditions of all the people of Rwanda on February 4. Thanks to Fred Baldwin and World Class Wines for providing wine and cheese.
- The Kick-Off event will be held at the Library on January 7 with books being given away. The books are courtesy of the Friends of the Library. Baars hopes the LAB members will be able to attend and enjoy the festivities.

8. New Business

- Mayor Kent Studebaker has invited the chairs and vice-chairs of all Boards and Commissions to meet with the City Council on Tuesday, January 15. Each representative should spend five minutes introducing themselves, explain the work of their boards, and highlight their achievements of 2012 and what they would like to accomplish or work on in 2013. Baars handed out copies of the Work Plan and Goals the LAB submitted last year.

As Councilor Gudman has suggested that the LAB discuss moving the Library to the West End Building (WEB), Baars said the LAB should decide whether to put this on the Work Plan or have a separate discussion at another time. Councilor Olson said she thinks the future of the WEB will be a priority for the new Council and that they will want input from the LAB. However, she did not think that this issue needs to be presented at this Council meeting as this will be more of a generic meeting. She did advise the LAB not to wait too long to put some thoughts together for the Council on the North Anchor Project, the future of the Library and the Library at the WEB.

The LAB left the Annual Report unchanged. With the Bond Measure failing, Short said the Goals and Work Plan need to be changed. The LAB made changes to the Work Plan by deleting “advocating for a new Library” to “exploring alternatives for a new Library”. The LAB changed the Goals with the addition of “Advocate for supplemental City funding for LO Reads program”, the second goal “Use of Library District Funding” was deleted as this goal was completed, and “as part of the North Anchor Project” was removed from the New Library paragraph. Ross will make the changes discussed and send out draft copies to the LAB members for final approval before the January City Council meeting.

Baars shared with the LAB some of the aftermath he has experienced as a result of the Library Bond Measure failure. He has had many people on a daily basis come to his office to talk about why the measure failed. Sometimes advice is offered on how to change the outcome next time and sometimes to discuss why the measure failed. Baars has gotten guidance from Darrel Condra and Maria Meneghin regarding about how to use these suggestions and comments in a productive way. Condra has put together a discussion on his take of the results and Baars has put together a list of what needs to be put in place before a new library is put before the voters again. These are from opinions from folks who voted against it and voted for it. People have talked freely with Baars as to why they voted against it. These are some of the reasons:

- The WEB was a huge issue for people. The future of the WEB needs to be settled before a future for the Library can be discussed.
- Debt was an issue, and more accurately it was the concept of debt that lost votes.
- People like this Library. The staff is doing a great job, the collection is good and the programs are good, people don't understand the need and the space constraints. People are not aware that the building is in disrepair and needs more costly upkeep as it continues to age.

Councilor Olson said she has had a number of people tell her that they did not vote for the measure because they did not want it to be part of a bigger project and this reason should be included in the list. Baars agreed that what also hurt the measure was that there was not a plan. Baars said there is not only one reason for the failure but several. These all have to be addressed before we can move forward for a new Library. This is all preambles to things to think about before each of the next theories come on what to do about the Library. The latest suggestion comes from Councilor Jeff Gudman to move the Library to the first floor of the WEB creating a 40,000 square foot Library. While this solves some problems including the problem of what to do with the WEB, giving the Library more space than it currently has, provides more parking. Conversely it would mean the City would not have a purpose built facility in ten years and would this move would hurt the downtown area.

Baars is bringing it to the LAB for them to think about and discuss. Short said he is not in favor of advocating for a library at the WEB until the issue of the building is resolved. Olson said she believes Gudman's feels his suggestion is a way of resolving the WEB issue. Baars said this is a complicated issue. In 2006 it was advocated to move the Library to the WEB but a great backlash was created by folks who didn't want the Library to move out of the current neighborhood and downtown area. Baars has concerns about moving into a building that was not meant for a Library and is concerned about whether the WEB building is worth spending a great deal of money on to remodel for a Library. Olson noted that the WEB building itself has issues as well. Olson said in her opinion the conversation should be based on what is best for the Library independent of the WEB building discussion. Baars suggests that the LAB give Councilor Gudman some feedback regarding his proposal. Rick Slaven said he has a great concern that Gudman's suggestion, if taken, would try to force a Library into a building that was not meant to be a library. He said the LAB's position should be that if the City wants to put the Library at the WEB site it should be designed and built for that site. Baldwin said the goal should be to get a better library and not solve the WEB problem

In 2006, there was a plan to tear down the WEB and build a new Library facility. Short thought that there were estimates at that time of what it would cost to put a Library in the WEB. Meneghin said she found where the cost was said to be about \$17 million dollars but when she asked Assistant City Manager Brant Williams he said that this cost would be much greater because that estimate did not take in to consideration ADA requirements, lighting, etc. David White said the LAB needs to respond to Councilor Gudman with their concerns and issues of his proposal but they are appreciative of his support of the Library.

Baars said he will review the studies of the 2006 plan for the WEB and find what the dollar amounts for the plans were discussed at the time. He said it would be helpful for the LAB to have the data used and to have something tangible to make a decision and give a response to this suggestion. He will forward those numbers to the LAB. Condra said it would also be helpful to look at the study done in 1995. The focus of this study was where the best place in the city to put a Library is. He said five sites recommended at that time were downtown and the same criteria still applies making the downtown retail area the best place for a public library.

9. Adjournment

The Library Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Ross
Recording Secretary