

Sno-Isle Libraries
Board of Trustees

Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, July 27, 2009
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Stone called the meeting to order at 4:35 P.M. at the Marysville Service Center.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Jacquelyn DeFazio, Art Peterson, Joel Selling, Sara Pendergast, Alanna Stone, Rico Tessandore (arrived at 4:48 pm)

Staff Present: Judy Carter, Arch Fonken, Mary Kelly, Karri Matau, Pat Olafson, Penni Vogel, Jonalyn Woolf-Ivory

Staff Absent: Jeanne Crisp, Cheryl Telford

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Selling moved to accept the agenda. Ms. DeFazio seconded the motion.

Ms. Stone noted that there would be an additional item on the agenda under Unfinished Business (Item 8d) – 2009 Board to Board Event.

The Board unanimously approved the amended agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. DeFazio moved to approve the Consent Agenda including:

- Approval of the June 22, 2009 Meeting Minutes
- Approval of June 2009 Sno-Isle Payroll, Benefits and Vouchers

Payroll Checks 12636 through 12724, Manual Checks 616 and 617, plus Electronic Transfers	\$1,275,540.35
Benefits Checks 33429 through 33443 and 33376, plus Electronic Transfers	<u>\$ 474,491.93</u>
Total Payroll and Benefits	\$1, 750,032.28
Accounts Payable Checks 33262 through 33525, less checks listed above, plus Electronic Transfers	<u>\$ 1,057,653.82</u>
Total Payroll, Benefits and Accounts Payable	\$2,807,686.10
- Approval of the June 14 through July 18, 2009 Coupeville LCFA Vouchers

Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

VISITORS

E. Ann Barbas, Gay Campbell, Oren Campbell, Yousif Fakhroo, Cecilia Hand,

Cindy Hand, Jason King, Rose King, Kristi Pihl, Mary Raymond, Rick Roberts, Jo Sanders, Jonas Thomas, Bill Thorn, Laurie Wheeler, Rebecca Wietzke

ART KIRSCHENBAUM

Ms. Stone noted with sadness the passing of Trustee Art Kirschenbaum on July 13, 2009.

Mr. Selling provided the following comments regarding Mr. Kirschenbaum:

The Sno-Isle Board of Trustees lost a valued member, Art Kirschenbaum, two weeks ago. We, as a Board, and the library world in general, have lost a voice that spoke eloquently, passionately and intelligently about the value of, and need for, public libraries.

For over thirty-five years, Art offered his time and insight to local, regional and national library groups, on both the East and West Coasts of the United States. After being appointed to Sno-Isle's Board in June 1999, Art demonstrated many times a key set of skills that improved our decisions.

His ability to ensure that legal documents were not just accurate, but clear, perhaps as a result of his program analysis for the U.S. Department of Education, was a wonderful asset. Yes, I will admit there were times when some Board members felt like he was being overly cautious, but Art was always aware that we, the Board, were ultimately responsible, and he took that responsibility very seriously.

Art also read carefully all financial documents. With his background in government program analysis, he was able to see things other Board members missed. And one key figure for Art was the percentage of annual budget being spent on materials. To Art, a particularly vital portion of our job as Trustees was to provide policy and guidance that ensured our service area would have access to as many materials as possible.

All of us who knew Art were aware that he could be counted on for occasional bad puns – and just as often, he could be counted on to offer sincere and public praise to Sno-Isle staff members who demonstrated exceptional technical skill or customer service. Art was a huge supporter of professional training and competitive compensation for Sno-Isle employees. For Art, that oft-repeated business mantra “our employees are our greatest asset” was not only true, but deserved Trustee support.

No remembrance of Art's life and his library work would be remotely close to accurate without noting his singular passion for intellectual freedom. The American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights notes seven areas that, in essence, prescribe that libraries give as many people as possible straightforward access to the materials the libraries offer. Art was the most vocal, and occasionally contentious, of Trustees when there were any hints of a breach of this Bill of Rights. In all the years I had the opportunity to serve with, and learn from, Art, intellectual freedom was the most powerful and consistent article of faith in his decisions. The Trustees are grateful for this passion of his – and our patrons are better off for his efforts.

The Sno-Isle Board of Trustees offers its sincere sympathy to Art's wife Athalie, who we have come to know and enjoy through Art. We hope there is some small solace in knowing that Art's efforts have had a positive, enduring and far-reaching effect on the quality of service our library system provides. We will find someone to fill Art's position; we will not find someone to fill his shoes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Becky Wietzke, President of the Friends of the Camano Island Library, provided the Board with additional signatures for the Friends' petition requesting the continuation of the Camano Island Library Pilot Project. Ms. Wietzke updated the Board on the membership status and fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Camano Island Library.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Ms. Woolf-Ivory highlighted the following items included in the day packet:

- Letters and emails from Camano Island residents in support of continuing the Camano Island Library Pilot Project,
- Article from the July 27, 2009 edition of *The Herald* regarding classes the Library District is offering for people seeking employment,
- Article from *Library Journal* (July 7, 2009) concerning the *North Central Regional Library's* case with the *Washington Supreme Court* regarding CIPA.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS

Library Director

Ms. Woolf-Ivory informed the Board that:

- The Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation would hold its next fundraiser on August 2 at 2:00 p.m. in North Snohomish County.
- She will be meeting with staff in community libraries and the Service Center to discuss the Board's June decision to hold a levy lid lift election in November 2009 and the 2010 budget.
- We received four pro names in response to the call for Pro / Con statements for the voters' pamphlet for the November 2009 levy lid lift election. The three pro names are John Lovick and Sue Ambler, Snohomish County, and Kathleen Shaw, Island County. There were no con names submitted.
- The Coupeville building project is progressing.
- Staff are working with a number of local / statewide community groups to apply for the federal stimulus money available for the development of broadband within libraries and other communities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Camano Island Library Pilot Project

Mr. Tessandore, chair of the System Services Committee, moved the Sno-Isle Libraries Board of Trustees extend the Camano Island Library Pilot Project with the understanding the Friends of the Camano Island Library will contribute a

minimum of \$20,000 each year to pay a portion of the lease for the library space. Ms. DeFazio seconded the motion.

After discussion, Ms. Pendergast made a friendly amendment to be added to the end of the motion: *until such time as a successful bond measure passes for that library.*

Mr. Tessandore and Ms. DeFazio accepted the friendly amendment. The Board unanimously passed the amended motion.

2009 Levy Lid Lift Election - 2010 Budget

Mr. Peterson moved the Sno-Isle Libraries Board of Trustees direct staff to make the following inclusions in the 2010 levy lid lift budget proposal:

- A 3% salary reduction for the six highest paid employees plus the remainder of the Leadership Team directors,
- A freeze in 2010 salaries for the remaining staff,
- A reduction in the equipment budget of \$821,558, the materials budget of \$128,500, and the programming budget of \$40,000.

Ms. DeFazio seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

The Board also discussed potential direction for the 2010 budget if the November 2009 levy lid lift election fails. In order to cover the \$2.5 million revenue shortfall in 2010 if the election fails, the Board directed staff to prepare a 2010 budget including all the reductions listed above as well as reduced open hours in community libraries.

2009 Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. Peterson moved the Sno-Isle Libraries Board of Trustees not hold a Board of Trustees meeting in August 2009 and instructed staff to remove the August 2009 meeting information from the Library District website and all usual places of notification. Ms. Pendergast seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

2009 Board to Board Event

Ms. DeFazio brought up for discussion the inclusion of the Friends of the Library groups in the September 12 *Board to Board Event*. Ms. Woolf-Ivory commented that currently there would be two regional Friends of the Library events, September 24 at Bayview, Whidbey Island, and September 26 at Marysville Service Center, in addition to the *Board to Board Event*. After discussion, the Board decided not to include Friends of the Library groups in the September 12 *Board to Board Event*. President Stone, Ms. DeFazio, and Ms. Pendergast will work with staff on the details of the *Board to Board Event*.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 09-04 – Recognizing Friends of the Library Week

Mr. Tessandore moved the Sno-Isle Libraries Board of Trustees adopt Resolution 09-04 recognizing *Friends of the Library Week* – the week of October 18, 2009. Ms. DeFazio seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Board of Trustees Vacancy

Mr. Selling moved the Sno-Isle Libraries Board of Trustees direct staff to work with the *Board Administration / Development Committee* and the *Snohomish County Executive* to begin the process of filling the vacancy on the Board of Trustees. Ms. DeFazio seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Tessandore's Schedule

Mr. Tessandore brought to the Board's attention that he would be unable to attend the September and October Board meetings due to a personal commitment.

Mr. Peterson moved to formally excuse Mr. Tessandore from his duties on the Board for August, September, and October 2009. Ms. Pendergast seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. DeFazio, reporting for the *Executive Committee*, requested that Ms. Woolf-Ivory contact Catherine McHugh regarding facilitating the 2009 library director's evaluation process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 P.M.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will be held Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 4:30 P.M. at the Monroe Library.

President

Secretary