



# **Ledding Library Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 26, 2009**  
**Ledding Library Pond House**

**Meeting called by:** Library Board Chairperson, Tom Hogan

**Board Members present:** Tom Hogan, Colleen Schacht, Ron Rasch, Mark Docken, Robert Biswas-Diener and Ed Zumwalt.

**Guests:** Carol Kay, Kay Sweetland Bower and Leslie Schockner

**Library staff:** Joe Sandfort

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Call to order:** Library Board Chairperson Tom Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the September Library Board meeting were approved.

### **New business**

**Library Board's offer to help with Pond House Book Store:** Friends of the Ledding Library President Carol Kay began her presentation by thanking the Library Board for their offer to help with the operation of the Pond House Book Store. Carol stated that the store needs more visibility to become a success. This increased visibility should come in the form of more and better publicity and signage. To this end, the Friends have sent fliers publicizing the store to all Milwaukie places of business. In addition, fliers will be given to the city's Neighborhood Associations for distribution. Carol then reported that the city will be asked to insert Pond House Book Store publicity in the water bills. She then said that the Library Board could help with book sales in several ways. First, the Board could help by planning, publicizing and putting on a Book Store Open House in the spring of 2010. Carol also asked for help with the Milwaukie Farmers' Market, which runs from May through October. She requested that Board members help transport sale materials to and from the booth each week

and staff the booth as well. The Friends would need a firm commitment from volunteers on which Sundays they can help at the Market; volunteers would also be asked to find a replacement if they cannot work their scheduled shift. The Board agreed to help with the projects that Carol outlined in her presentation and thanked her for support that the Friends provide the Ledding Library.

**Authors' Quarterly Discussion:** Beginning in July, 2009, the Author's Quarterly Series has featured writers who live in the immediate area. As the series is held at the Pond House, it is co-sponsored by the Ledding Library. Leslie Schockner, a citizen of Milwaukie, expressed concerns about the October 22 program in the series. The publicity for this program described two of the participants as Christian writers. In her presentation to the Board, Ms Schockner said that her concerns relate to first amendment issues with regards to possible public sector promotion of one religion over another, private inurement from a tax exempt entity and the appearance of a possible conflict of interest with regard to elected officials. Ms Schockner stressed that she is both an avid user and supporter of the library and feels that the library is a vital part in creating a sense of community within Milwaukie. She went on to say that Milwaukie is changing and that programs should be run so that they are open to all people. Ms Schockner then offered to help with the library's policy on programming. Board member Robert Biswas-Diener asked how the current policy should be changed. Ms. Schockner said that the distinction between sponsored and co-sponsored policies needs to be clarified. Member Mark Docken observed that the acquisition of the Pond House by the city has brought programming issues to the fore. Ms Schockner then observed that the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) is an excellent source of program presenters. Joe concurred, stating that the Friends of the Library used RACC to get started with the First Saturday Music Series. Board Chair Tom Hogan and Mark Docken further explained the policy-making process by stating that policies of this type must be approved by the City Attorney and the City Manager. Board Member Colleen Schacht added that the Authors' Quarterly series has just begun and is still in development – that there have been only two programs so far. She went on to say that the Board worked hard on the current programming policy and that it would be impossible to address all issues in any policy that is written. Board member Ron Rasch noted that just about any group used as a resource for program presenters may tend to have exclusionary tendencies. Chair Hogan then summarized the discussion up to this point by saying that Ms Schockner has brought up two basic issues: 1. The criteria that should be used to select when selecting presenters for the Authors' Quarterly programs and 2. The library's current programming policy. Mark Docken stated that there will always be questions no matter how broadly the policy is written. Speaking on behalf of the entire Board, Tom expressed his gratitude to Ms Schockner for the questions that she has raised about library programming. The Board also came to a consensus that the issues raised by Ms Schockner are complex and will need further discussion at future meetings. Preliminary dialog indicated that the Board will discuss issues relating to

sponsored vs co-sponsored programs. Robert and Ed have volunteered to act as Board liaisons to the administrators of the Authors' Quarterly series.

**Librarian's Report:** Library Director Joe Sandfort reported that the 2009-2010 "Wish List" meeting, in which the library staff presents its funding needs to the Friends, came to a successful resolution. At the meeting, the Friends agreed to continue funding the adult, teen and children's summer reading programs, several collection development projects, storytimes in Spanish, and the purchase of replacement audiobook tapes and disks. New projects which received approval were a new countertop for the circulation desk, a wireless Internet network for the public, a self check machine and new cabinets for the staff lounge. Joe then said that he is making progress on hiring an environmental consultant who will assess the impact that a replacement Pond House deck would have on the water quality of the pond. A "Description of Services Needed" document was sent to three firms and the deadline for a response is October 30<sup>th</sup>. At its October 6, 2009 meeting, the Milwaukie City Council approved a resolution to allow the city to become a member of the Library District of Clackamas County. Joe concluded his report by describing a meeting attended by him, Carol Kay, Library Circulation Supervisor Nancy Wittig, and city Planning Department staff members Li Alligood and Ryan Marquardt. At this meeting, the Friends of the Library were given guidelines on the types of signage they could use to bring increased visibility to the Pond House Book Store.

**Poetry Series update:** Library Board Chair Tom Hogan reported that his Poetry Committee presentation to the City Council at its October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting went well and was warmly received. Tom gave each of the Board members a copy of the document that was used as the application for the League of Oregon City's Award of Excellence on behalf of the Poetry Series. He then said that Don Colburn will be the featured poet on November 11 and that several open mic events for adults and teens are planned to take place between now and June 2010. Colleen was recognized for her assuming the role of the Poetry Series videographer. Mark then brought the "Poetry 180" project to the attention of the Board. This Internet-based program provides a poem to students for each day of the school year. Mark also mentioned that grants for poetry programs may be available from the Oregon Cultural Trust. Tom felt that grant applications should be considered on a case by case basis to determine who would be responsible for filing the application and what materials would be included with it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.