



Ledding Library Board Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2011
Ledding Library Pond House

Meeting called by: Library Board Chairperson, Mark Docken

Library Board Members present: Mark Docken, Colleen Schacht, Kay Sweetland Bower, Ron Rasch and Ed Zumwalt.

Library Board Members absent: Robert Biswas-Diener and Tom Hogan

Guest: Milwaukie City Councilor, Greg Chaimov

Library staff: Joe Sandfort

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: Library Board Chairperson Mark Docken called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

New business

Librarian's Report: Library Director Joe Sandfort began his report by stating that he will meet with City Manager Bill Monahan on January 25 to discuss the recommendations presented to the City Council by the Library Board in its work plan. Joe then said that the city is in the process of switching to new versions of Microsoft Office programs on its staff computers. The library made this transition on January 15 and 16. An additional public Internet station for adults was installed on January 19. This station took the place of a library catalog computer. The Friends of the Library annual meeting will be held on February 1 at 9am; the brunch in honor of volunteers will take place on April 30 and the Book Sale is scheduled for June 24, 25 and 26. January's *First Saturday Music Program*, featuring the *Johnson Creek Brass*, was one of the best attended adult events ever held in the library. The *Authors' Quarterly* presentation, featuring three local writers, was very successful, with over 30 people in attendance. Due to the poet's illness, the January poetry reading was cancelled. The William Stafford

Birthday Celebration, held at the Pond House on January 15, was a great success with over 20 people in attendance.

Milwaukie City Councilor, Greg Chaimov: Councilor Chaimov was greeted by the Library Board and then asked the members what types of information they would like from him. Board Member Kay Bower asked Mr. Chaimov to clarify the differences between the Library Endowment Fund (Fund 880 in the city's budget) and monies held by the Ledding Library Foundation. Mr. Chaimov explained that the Foundation was a private, nonprofit entity that was separate from the city. The Foundation is run by a Board of Directors and has approximately \$13,000 in a savings account. Fund 880 is part of the city's budget and expenditures from it must be approved by the city staff or the Council. There is approximately \$170,000 in Fund 880, the result of two bequests. Library Board Chair Mark Docken then asked for Mr. Chaimov's thoughts on the recommendations in the Board's work plan that was presented to the Council on January 18. Mr. Chaimov said that there is general support on the Council for a larger library – that the challenge with which the Council is faced is one of funding. The Council is currently in the process of setting goals for itself. These goals will be divided into two categories – goals that will cost money to implement and those that will not. After this is done, the goals within each of the two categories will be ranked in order of importance. A library expansion is one of the Council's goals. Mr. Chaimov felt that the Council needed more information on library needs and did not have a plan on how to fund a library expansion. He went on to say that the city is considering ways to consolidate employee workspaces, and that the library would play an important part in resolving the issues identified in the city's *Space Assessment Study*. Mr. Chaimov said that there are only two ways within the city to raise a significant amount of money – to increase property values or to raise taxes. He then said that the city has several major capital projects under consideration – a bike path on SE 17, a minor league baseball stadium, the creation of a park on the river front, etc. The Council would welcome ideas on how to fund these projects, as all are worthwhile and have community support. Mark then mentioned that libraries have positive effects on the passage of ballot measures and that a larger library is past due. Councilor Chaimov said that it is very important for Library Board members to become strong advocates for a larger library. Kay then asked if the Library Board would have a say in how money from Fund 880 is spent. Councilor Chaimov said that in all probability, the Council would ask the Library Board for its feelings on how Fund 880 should be spent. Kay then noted that Library Board members may benefit from training on how ethics laws apply to Board members. Mark then said that a citizens committee, whose mission it would be to bring about a new library, should be formed. This committee should consist of Library Board members, representatives from the City Council and Budget Review Board, city planning and finance staff, and various community members with different backgrounds and skills. Board member Ed Zumwalt opposed this idea, saying that the Board consists of the citizens best qualified to be in charge of the expansion project. Ed

went on to state that the Board would be abdicating its responsibility to the community if it turned the library project over to another group.

Councilor Chaimov recommended that Library Board members attend neighborhood association (NA) meetings to raise the profile of the library in the community. The Board should take every action it can to promote the library and its services. He pointed out that the NA leadership group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month and that these meetings would be an excellent method of contacting neighborhood associations. Ed then moved that the Library Board be placed on the February agenda of the NA Leadership group. Kay seconded this motion. Mark agreed that the Board should encourage public support for the library and then urged that the Council adopt the four recommendations that were presented in the Board's work plan.

Councilor Chaimov then recommended that the Board offer tours of the library to the city councilors and that library book display areas be used for councilors' recommended reading. The Board then discussed possible sites for a branch library or a new building – the OIT campus on Harmony Road, the former ESD building, the land behind Albertsons, etc. After being thanked by the Library Board for his attendance, Councilor Chaimov then left the meeting.

General Comments: Ed stated that he will look into the involvement ODS had with the building of the Baker County Library. Mark stated that he would attend the NA February leadership meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.