

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Mount Vernon City Library Board of Trustees
May 5, 2016**

Board members present: Hal Verrell, Margaret Redfern and Frank Replier.

Excused absence: Bill Craig.

Library staff present: Director Brian Soneda.

A. Call to order: Mr. Verrell, acting as Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

B. Approval of minutes from the April 7, 2016 meeting: Mr. Replier moved that the minutes of the April 7, 2016 meeting be approved as submitted. Ms. Redfern seconded the motion; all were in favor.

C. Visitors: Trustee candidates Stephanie Alexander and Katy Armagost were in attendance. Mr. Verrell welcomed both and encouraged any questions or input from guests over the course of the meeting.

D. Surplus Material: Mr. Verrell and Mr. Soneda explained the surplus process for the benefit of the guests. Ms. Redfern then moved that items withdrawn between April 6, 2016 and April 22, 2016 be declared surplus and transferred to the Friends of the Mount Vernon Library. Mr. Replier seconded the motion; all were in favor.

E. Budget Reports: Mr. Soneda reported that spending was roughly on schedule for the year. Mr. Verrell asked about the Adopt an Author program as a way patrons could help the book budget; Mr. Soneda responded that the program was still available and had been helpful, particularly in the very difficult core recession years. Ms. Alexander asked whether the library utilized local book stores when making book purchases; Mr. Soneda responded that while the bulk of purchases were done through book distributors like Baker & Taylor, significant purchases were made through local vendors such as The Tattered Page, particularly in support of the Juvenile Detention book discussion program.

F. Approval of Disbursements: Mr. Replier moved that disbursements from Period 4 in the amount of \$18,567.26 be certified as reviewed. Ms. Redfern seconded the motion; all were in favor.

G. Monthly statistical reports: Mr. Soneda reported that April 2016 statistics mostly fit in the recent pattern of slight declines from the corresponding months in 2015. Ms. Armagost asked about the \$21,400 listed as a “donation” in the statistical report; Mr. Soneda noted that this represented the annual disbursement from the Frank Bichler Bequest, which was overseen by the Skagit Community Foundation. Mr. Bichler was a library patron who clearly valued books and literacy. As was his wish, the Bequest supports the purchase of print books for the library.

H. Director's Reports:

a. 2016 Library Goals, progress report. Mr. Soneda reported on the extensive amount of outreach/marketing that various library staff members were involved in that supported action items in the 2016 Library Goals, much of which tied into *Celebrating a Century of Service* programming. Ms. Alexander asked about the "fabric building" concept she had heard about in regards to a potential new library. Mr. Soneda responded that a report of fabric buildings would be part of the next Library Foundation meeting agenda.

b. Book Sale report. Mr. Soneda reported that the Friends of the Mount Vernon Library's April 15-16 Spring Sale was very successful and brought in \$2,116. He did note that while the level of volunteer effort on the sale was significant and much appreciated, the between sale effort by staff in sorting, boxing and storing books and preparing for the sales in the months between sales was also very significant. Staff is studying ways to streamline that effort, as the current level of effort by staff is neither sustainable nor cost-effective.

c. Outreach (100 year anniversary). Mr. Soneda shared information about two upcoming *Celebrating a Century of Service* events, the upcoming showing of *The Princess Bride*, on June 11 at the Lincoln Theatre, and Library Party/Ice Cream Social on July 30.

d. Staffing update. Mr. Soneda reported that Sonja Pederson had been selected to fill the Page opening and would start next week. A hiring committee continued to work on filling two part-time Public Services Assistant positions, one permanent and filling the position created by the resignation of Margie Adams, the other a three month temporary position that would help fill a Family Leave absence. Mr. Soneda expected to be able to announce the names of those selected for these two openings at the next Board meeting.

e. other. Mr. Soneda reported on the very successful Poetry in Nature kickoff event on May 2, with several poets reading their work, some of which was represented on three Poetry trails up for the month of May.

I. Around the Table:

Ms. Armagost shared a little detail on her background as a foreign language teacher at Mount Vernon High School. After living in Kansas and California for many years, she returned to Mount Vernon.

Ms. Alexander noted that she was a La Conner High School graduate, and that she has a background that included being a reading specialist teaching remedial reading, as well as public agency contract writing experience. She asked for further detail about the Juvenile Detention reading program as well as the library's involvement with Oasis Teen Shelter; Mr. Soneda provided some additional information, much of which credited the great work of staff member Alberta Hendrickson, library lead on both partnerships.

Mr. Replier added that he highly appreciated the work of Oasis Teen Shelter and he commended Ms. Hendrickson's involvement as the main library presence with that program.

Ms. Redfern commended the work Mike Bonacci has done as the library's volunteer coordinator and that as a volunteer herself she has appreciated Mr. Bonacci's helpful and supportive style in that role.

J. Board Chair's Report: Mr. Verrell asked about the Mount Vernon Library Foundation. He also asked about the SPEEA (Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace) grant project; Mr. Soneda noted that the Learning Lab was a valued and appreciated addition to library offerings and that staff was working with SPEEA contact Scott Correa on a possible follow-up grant request.

K. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM. The next meeting of the board of trustees will be on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 5:30 PM at the library.

Minutes by Brian Soneda, Library Director