

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES December 16, 2009

The Board met in regular session at the Downtown Reno Library, 301 South Center Street, Reno, Nevada. Chair Fred Lokken called the meeting to order at 3:59 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Tom Cornell, Dianne Drinkwater, Fred Lokken and Al Stoess

Board Member Absent: Judy Simon

Library Staff Present: Brenda Baxter, Kristin Cannard, Tammy Cirrincione, Corinne Dickman, Dave Eveland, Nancy Keener, Barbara Lentz, Carol Lloyd, Julie Machado, Arnie Maurins, Maureen McElroy, Jennifer Oliver, Brenda Owens, Aurora Partridge, Bonnie Saviers, Cecily Small, Andy Tavener, Dianne Varnon, Scottie Wallace, Beate Weinert and Rocky Badolato

County Staff Present: Deputy District Attorney Herb Kaplan and Property Program Manager Wendy Pitts, Public Works

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On motion by Dr. Stoess, seconded by Mr. Cornell, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the minutes of the November 18, 2009, meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Report Regarding the Budget Reduction Plan for Fiscal Year 2009/10

Mr. Maurins reported there is nothing new on this item, but noted the following:

- o The position of County management remains the same: no further cuts will be needed this year, barring any unforeseen circumstance like a special session of the legislature.
- o The library system is on track with spending for the current year. There is approximately 55% of the budget remaining, which is where we should be at this point in the year.
- o Fines, fees and charges are showing some improvement. Revenue is at approximately 57% of where it should be, which is an improvement over last month.

He then asked if there was interest on the Board in being on the distribution list for the County Managers' electronic newsletter. Mr. Lokken is on the list, as is Ms. Drinkwater, who requested that it be sent to her home email. Mr. Maurins will provide Community Relations with the remaining Board members' email addresses.

NEW BUSINESS

Strategies for Potential Budget Reduction in FY 2010/11

Mr. Maurins advised the Board that the Commissioners began discussion regarding budget policy decisions for the coming fiscal year at their meeting on December 8. They were given the following options to consider:

- o All departments be asked to take the same percentage cut
- o The difference between the different groups of departments be 1% from group to group
- o The difference between the departments taking the highest and lowest cuts be no more than 10%

A fourth option presented is to fund only mandated services, but there was no supporting material provided, and that option requires more research and work by the Finance Department. Commissioner Breternitz requested that option to be explored. Commissioner Larkin brought up the possibility of zero based budgeting, meaning that each department would start with a zero budget and need to justify every expenditure.

Following the staff presentation, the District Attorney raised the issue of looking at needs versus wants. Mr. Maurins added that, with that in mind, he is considering requesting to be placed on the agenda for the first BCC meeting in January to make a case for minimizing or reducing the share that the library would be asked to take and showing that what the Library System provides falls more in the category of needs rather than wants, with education being a huge component, and also showing that libraries do not fit neatly into the culture and recreation box.

The Library Board reviewed the information submitted in the Board packet.

Mr. Maurins made the following correction to the portion of his memo to the Board dealing with the Verdi Library: The amount of the federal grant was \$300,000, not \$200,000. He added that he has since spoken with a representative from the Nevada Department of Wildlife who worked with the County when the library was built, whose interpretation of the regulations that govern the federal grant contributed to the construction of the building is that if the building is no longer used as a public library, NDOW would have to return the \$300,000 to the federal government, and would then look to the County for that money. Official determination would require going to the Nevada Attorney General and one of the regional offices of the US Parks and Wildlife Department for an official decision. Mr. Maurins will discuss this matter further with legal counsel.

Mr. Lokken stated that in the future, the Library Board will need to insure that the aforementioned type of arrangement is never made again so that future Boards are not encumbered with no options regarding facility use.

Ms. Drinkwater stated her appreciation for the approach of library staff looking toward planning on how to use resources in the future rather than dwelling on what is being lost. She also likes the idea of an independent district.

On questioning by the Board, Wendy Pitts advised that when the Sierra View Library lease concession was accepted last year, the lease term was extended to June 30, 2012, in consideration of that concession. She has not yet approached the landlord about a concession for FY 2010/11 because she needs to be able to assure him that the Library is committed to being in that location. However, she noted that in order for a landlord to give a rent concession and take a tax break, it has to be making a profit, and there are currently empty units in the Reno Town Mall.

On further questioning by the Board, Mr. Maurins advised that the revenue projections for FY 2010/11 will be presented at the January 26, 2010 BCC meeting. It is hoped that target cuts will be determined at that time.

On questioning by Mr. Maurins, Ms. Pitts confirmed that one of the terms of both the Sierra View Library and North Valleys Library leases is a six-month notice to terminate the lease and penalty payment of six months' rent if library services are provided in another location in those areas. She added that both leases are negotiable.

Mr. Lokken suggested a work session to gather information and further discuss this item.

Removal of Mobile Library I from Service

The Library Board reviewed the information submitted in the Board packet.

Following discussion, on the reluctant motion by Ms. Drinkwater, seconded by Mr. Cornell, which motion duly passed with one opposed, the Board approved removal of Mobile Library I and the vehicle donated by Nevada State Bank used for homebound service, effective January 4, 2010.

Discussion and action regarding the disposition of the vehicles will be placed on the agenda for the January 20 Board meeting.

Staff Report on the Verdi Community Library Programs, Activities and Operation

Dave Eveland, Managing Librarian of the Verdi Community Library and Nature Center, reported the following:

- o As with all branches, the hours of operation for the library were cut on June 29, 2009, and the Verdi Library is now open 3:00-7:00 p.m. on Tuesday and 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Saturday
- o There was a rapid decrease in activity due to the shortened hours that has been steadily increasing, and there were twice the number of visits in November as there were in July
- o Programs continue to be a draw, including
 - approximately 200 attending Storytime
 - a new wave of preschoolers visiting the library
 - Paws to Read with Rocky and Riley on the second Saturday of the month
 - Presentation of "The Grinch" as a joint program with the school with attendance of approximately 250
- o Hosted Verdi History Day with the Verdi History Club
- o Northwest Reno Library provides assistance, including providing a copy of the Fall Reading Program mural and displays
- o Verdi Elementary School continues to be supportive, and Mr. Shuster has done an excellent job clearing the parking lot and sidewalks leading to the library

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY REPORT TO THE BOARD

The Library Board reviewed the report submitted in the Board packet.

Mr. Maurins added the following:

- o The Nevada County privatization issue situation is being closely monitored
- o He will be changing the format of the Administration reports
- o The 5,408 pounds of food collected for Food for Fines is not the final figure because the numbers from all branches have not yet been received

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Library Board reviewed the reports submitted in the Board packet.

MONTHLY LIBRARY USAGE STATISTICS REPORT

The Library Board reviewed the report submitted in the Board packet.

Mr. Maurins confirmed that reduced hours is the largest factor in the decrease in numbers and noted that at some branches the per-hour numbers are higher.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION

Scottie Wallace, Managing Librarian of the Downtown Reno Library, addressing the Board as a constituent, stated her appreciation of the difficulty of the motion, the second and the vote in connection with the Mobile Library. She offered her support in any way possible to assist the Board.

BOARD COMMENT

On questioning by the Board, Mr. Maurins advised that a report can probably be generated to break down the internet usage on the web site if the Board is interested.

Mr. Lokken announced that former Library Director Martha Gould will be on "It's Not Just Politics" Sunday on channel 8 to discuss the library situation and the role of the Friends.

Mr. Lokken suggested that this might be a good time to do some fact-finding regarding privatization and library districts.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lokken adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.