

Lake Stevens Library Board

April 15, 2021

The meeting was hosted via Zoom and called to order by Shaelynn Charvet Bates at 4:30p.m.

In Attendance

Board: Shaelynn Charvet Bates, Abe Martinez, Melissa Maffeo; Helen Taylor, Lynn Myers, Candace Barlow, Emily Stainbrook

Sno-Isle: Lindsay Hanson, Alisa Erickson-Chongrak, Chy Ross

Friends: Melissa Knaak

City Council: Mary Dickinson

City: Kelly Chelin, Russ Wright, Gene Brazel

Non-Excused Absences: Andy Powers; Teresa Bannon

Roll Call & Introductions

Oath of Office: Conducted by Kelly Chelin to new member Candace Barlow

Approval of prior meeting minutes

Motion by Emily Stainbrook, second by Melissa Maffeo, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting as submitted with minor corrections. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-2).

New Business:

Shaelynn shared details about a list of suggestions for a new library forwarded to her by the Lake Stevens Allies for BIPOC after our January meeting. As they pertained to a February public meeting hosted by the city and Stowe Consulting, Shaelynn encouraged them to share those ideas themselves during the said meeting. They did so. To provide due diligence with regard to their request, the document was also shared with the board before today's meeting. Shaelynn noted that it was good to see that this group's suggestions were in line with, and largely already covered by, Sno-Isle, the city, Stowe Consulting, and citizen suggestions gathered to this point. Helen Taylor mentioned that the Allies for BIPOC group made a presentation to the City Council two days earlier (April 13) to encourage the establishment of a permanent DEIA commission (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access) where she spoke at that meeting in support of the group.

Shaelynn also brought up a concern forwarded to her by Debby Ames, who served for decades on the Library Board. With the coming demolition of the current library building, Debby was worried that a plaque and one or two plantings that were set as memorials near the building would be destroyed as well. After some discussion it was clear that both Sno-Isle and city staff are aware of the plaque, and to a lesser extent the plants. Russ Wright asked that someone with knowledge of the precise location of the memorials use city-provided tape to mark off the items and make sure workers are aware of their existence so they can take care to move them to the temporary and new library locations. Lindsay said she will follow up. (Note that the next

day Lindsay reported to the board that while the plaque was saved the trees that may have been part of the memorial were, tragically, cut down that day before anyone could get to the city to alert them of the exact location of the plantings.)

Reports

Managing Librarian: Lindsay Hanson introduced Alisa Erickson-Chongrak who will be working as an assistant managing librarian while Lindsay is focused primarily on the move to the new building. Alisa shared her own story for a few minutes.

Lindsay gave us an update on the current state of the planning for the new civic center project and the process of getting input from the community.

She also reported that 3.1 million dollars were included in the proposed state capital budget for a new library in Lake Stevens. (Note that funds are from a combination of two sources: 2 million for a Lake Stevens Early Learning Library and 1.1 million provided to Sno-Isle for Lake Stevens. Also note that at the time of the meeting the proposed budget had not yet become law but was expected to pass easily.)

She then gave a detailed report (with visuals) on the transition process to the temporary facility. Most of the important facts are contained in her report (attached below). In short:

- Last day for service from the present location will be Sunday, May 23, 2021.
- The old police station will not be ready for occupation and operation until mid to late August.
- The library will have a very small operation working out of a building in Lundeen Park through the summer. Specific details are not fully known at this time, but plans are to have a small, outdoor collection available to people visiting the park. The Sno-Isle Bookmobile will also make visits to the city during this interim period.
- Internet access for staff will be marginal at best and most likely via a wireless “hot spot.” As such, no public access to Wi-Fi can be provided while operating out of Lundeen Park.
- Due to the transitions and lack of space, there will be no in-person programming until 2022.
- Sno-Isle plans to provide a variety of communication pieces informing citizens of the changes.
- When ready for occupation, the new (temporary) library location on Grade Rd. will have more than twice the space of the current facility and will be a major step forward for the city and local library staff in terms of services they are able to provide the citizens.

Lindsay showed the board plans for the layout of the temporary facility on Grade Rd. and provided detailed explanations of the ideas behind the architectural decisions.

City Update: Community Development Director Russ Wright said that the Sno-Isle presentation essentially covered all the facts important to the board that he might have mentioned. He reiterated the request that we encourage participation in the survey about the proposed civic center.

Shaelynn asked how costs have been shared by the city for the Grade Rd. location since Sno-Isle has budgeted \$250,000 for renovations. Russ Wright said that the city took on the substantial costs of repairing the foundation for the building, plus made necessary exterior changes including to the parking lot and the grounds. Chy Ross spoke as well saying that Sno-Isle is very comfortable with the inter-agency agreement for the building site.

Facilities: There are no outstanding issues for this committee and no report is necessary.

Friends: Melissa Knaak said that 2021 has been a good year thus far despite the COVID restrictions. Membership stands at 29 paid members through the end of the year. They have moved out all the Friends resources from the current location. Basket sales have continued and are done online. She encouraged us to promote fund raising efforts, especially the Mod Pizza days where the vendor donates a percentage to the Friends group if a buyer mentions the group at checkout. Year-to-date income is \$798.78. Administrative expenses are \$80.87.

Board Comments: Shaelynn had a final question about the land on Chapel Hill Rd. that is owned by Sno-Isle. In one of the proposed alternatives for the future civic center the Sno-Isle portion of the land would be sold off to support the financing of the center. Shaelynn wanted to know if there were any restrictions about how that land could be used. Both the city and Sno-Isle representatives said there are no restrictions.

Adjournment: Abe Martinez moved, and Emily Stainbrook seconded. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-2).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45.

Next meeting: July 15, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Abraham Martinez
Secretary

Lake Stevens Library Board

April 15, 2021

Report

Lindsay Hanson, Library Manager

Alisa Erickson-Chongrak, Assistant Library Manager

Building Update

The first phase of the Civic Center project with the City and the Sewer district is nearly complete. There was an open public meeting on April 8th @6pm hosted by the City. The Stowe consultants who have been helping us with this project presented initial concepts for a potential civic campus. There is survey open now to solicit feedback on the three concept alternative designs before a final preferred concept is developed. You can watch the recording of the presentation and take the survey on the Civic Center webpage linked above.

Our State Legislators have proposed \$3.1M in the capital budget for a future Lake Stevens Library! We are so appreciative that the State Legislature identified and established the Library Capital Improvement Program in RCW 27.12.010, to acquire, construct or rehabilitate library facilities. Given the essential role of public libraries, especially as economic recovery centers and “second responders” in supporting equitable digital access during the COVID pandemic, we appreciate the support we’ve received in securing creative funding sources to support capital projects.

Meanwhile we continue to make progress on our transition to our new/temporary location at the former police station. Our last day of service at our current location on Main Street will be Sunday May 23rd. We’re planning to use the last week of May to do the final move out of everything, although we have already moved many boxes of equipment and supplies to a storage unit. In addition to the move, we are beginning preparations for renovations at the new site. Unfortunately, there will be a gap from the time when we need to be out of our current space until the new space is ready for customers. The City has generously offered to loan us office space at Lundeen this summer to provide limited library services from. We will soon have publicity to help us communicate this and other information to our community. We’re looking forward to this adventure!

Contact Free Services

- Contact-free pick up of materials and returns and Online programs and classes
- Remote printing and laptop checkout
- Library Picks book recommendations
- To-Do, To-Go activities for Kids and Teens