

Lake Stevens Library Board

January 19, 2023

The meeting was hosted via Zoom and In Person (Hybrid) and called to order by Abe Martinez at 4:32 pm

In Attendance

Library Board: Abe Martinez, Shaelynn Charvet Bates, Emily Stainbrook, LeeAnn Balbirona, Melissa Maffeo, Andy Powers

Sno-Isle: Lindsay Hanson, Antoinette Morales-Tanner

Friends of the Library: Melissa Knaak

City Council: Mary Dickinson

City: Kelly Chelin

Excused Absences: None

Non-Excused Absences: JoAnne Van Leuven

Roll Call & Introductions

Approval of Prior Meeting Minute

The Board approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the 10/20/2022 meeting as submitted.

New Business

Open Seats

As of our last meeting there were two open seats on the Library Board. Three candidates applied, but two have dropped out. Nancy Joao will be sworn in at the city council meeting next week and join us on the Board at the next meeting. With one open seat remaining there will be more interviews upcoming.

Board Secretary

The Board has been in need of a secretary. Abe Martinez contacted board member LeeAnn Balbirona about filling this role in an acting capacity, and to consider filling the role permanently. LeeAnn accepted. Andy Powers motioned to nominate LeeAnn Balbirona for the position of Secretary. Emily Powers seconded the motion. LeeAnn Balbirona was voted in as secretary by unanimous consent.

Reports

Friends of the Library

Dana Bittinger is now president of the Friends and Melissa Knaak is secretary as of November 2022. Melissa gave today's report. The Friends are meeting in person,

quarterly on Fridays at 4:30 pm in the library. Other meetings may be held via Zoom. All in person meetings are hybrid format.

Melissa Knaak gave a report on the activities of the Friends of the Library, including Advent Book Basket sales, upcoming Quarterly book sales, a new Seed Library partnership with Down to Earth Community Gardens, and an update on their finances.

Sno Isle Library Report

Lindsay Hanson gave a report about the overall strategic goals for Sno-Isle that asks “how are we fulfilling the vision?” of expanding library services; expanded library access (such as community after-hours access to meeting rooms and the library space); creating inspiring spaces (see Langley or Darrington remodels, flooring improvements at Mill Creek); ensuring long-term funding of library services beyond property taxes; investment in staffing; updates for parking lot security; reviewing board level policies; and the sustainability agreement.

Lake Stevens Library Report

Antoinette Morales-Tanner submitted a written report to the board and gave updates on recent programming at the Lake Stevens library. These activities included Story Time programs, Science Labs, and card making. The library has reached out to the local school district, especially Homelinek and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs. Of the 47,000 in person visits to Lake Stevens library in 2022, most occurred in August, 13,000 new library card holders came from the local school district students through the partnership.

In 2023 the programming strategy will include quarterly all-ages programs at locations other than the library to accommodate larger groups. For example, on Feb. 24th there will be a program at the Lake Stevens Senior Center with the Woodland Park Zoo from 2-4 pm on a Friday for all ages. Another monthly story time for parents and toddlers will be held on Saturdays to accommodate working families. Online programming is also available, reaching a wide audience through YouTube.

A new program called Primetime will begin soon at Stevens Creek Elementary for 20 families over a six week period. This program is funded by a grant and assists parents in engaging with their children about reading. A dinner is provided for each meeting night and community sponsors are being sought to provide these dinners.

Building Site of the Future Library--North End Excavating of Granite Falls was selected to tear down the old buildings and other structures on site. A site plan is in process in

partnership with the Snohomish Conservation District. Antoinette will alert the board when the date of first shovel work is known.

Also noted is a Bill & Melinda Gates Grant for early literacy education and fun new library card designs attractive to kids featuring animals.

City of Lake Stevens report

No official report from the city, but council member Mary Dickinson commented that she is pleased to see Sno-Isle working in partnership with the Snohomish Conservation District. Regarding the Chapel Hill city property meeting last year, Mary noted that many came out to comment about the use of the property. The senior center was helped by the library to get new computers and training on how to use them. Regarding the Primetime program dinners, the Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions clubs are considering their ability to sponsor.

Board Comments

Shaelyn Charvet Bates: I was at the Chapel Hill property use meeting. Thanks to Mary Dickinson and Steve Ewing for representing what the library board has been working for over the years. It is frustrating to see that property being moved away from a public use type property.

Melissa Maffeo: Antoinette is doing an amazing job. Times are difficult for many families. Impressed that we have a council that listens to and cares about the community.

Abe Martinez: In regards to the Chapel Hill city property meeting, he felt that communication has been lacking in how decisions have been made about property use.

LeeAnn Balbirona: Also impressed with the programs our Lake Stevens library is offering. My parent-toddler story time days are far behind me, but I know how important these programs are for bringing all the new and diverse families of the community together, helping to create a sense of belonging to Lake Stevens.

Adjournment:

Shaelyn Charvet Bates motioned to adjourn the meeting. Andy Powers seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

The next meeting of the library board is: April 20, 2023 at 4:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
LeeAnn Balbirona