

Finance Committee Meeting

Elisha D. Smith Public Library – Board of Trustees

Friday, June 5th, 2009

Minutes

Present: Jill Enos (Chair), John Nebel, Kathy Wicichowski and Director Tasha Saecker

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm in the Administrative Meeting Room.

Two items were added to the agenda at Nebel's request: Reviewing Matching Options for the Gates Grant and the Bylaws of the Friends of the Elisha D. Smith Public Library.

Director Saecker spoke about the general budget outlook and her concerns for the 2010 budget. Other libraries in the area are seeing flat funding for 2010. There are no firm numbers at this time for our budget process.

Director Saecker recapped the monetary impact of the Long Range Plan items, explaining that all of the items for 2010 can be done within the existing budget figures. That changes if the library sees cuts in 2010.

Wicichowski mentioned her interest in the teen programming for 2010 mentioned in the Long Range Plan. She also asked about the sequence of the Teen Advisory Group following the programming portion of the plan. Director Saecker will look at moving the Advisory Group to 2010.

Nebel mentioned concerns about Director Saecker taking minutes while being involved in the meeting. Chair Enos didn't see a problem so the meeting continued with Director Saecker taking minutes.

Chair Enos asked about what the library would do if we had more funding. Director Saecker spoke about opportunities with a Goodwill branch location or a mobile facility. Full board support would have to be garnered before moving ahead with a project of that magnitude.

A discussion about extending library hours on either summer Saturdays or Sundays was held. It was decided if funding is available the library will conduct a survey of library users to find out what hours would be of most benefit to the community.

Director Saecker also talked about the library roof and the fact that the library has an old roof attached to a new roof. The roof cost has already been brought to the City's attention as a capital cost. It will most likely have to be replaced in the next five years.

Chair Enos recommended that the Finance Committee ask all board members to think about priorities and have funding at the top of their mind. They recommend that the library look at additional open hours on summer weekends and be ready to react to budget numbers as they are received.

Nebel brought up his concerns about how the library will fund the matching portion of the Gates Grant. Director Saecker explained that the matching funds will be covered by the technology funds at WALC, just as the self-check machines were funded last year.

Nebel requested access to the Friends of the Library bylaws to better understand the monetary relationship between the Friends and the library board. Director Saecker questioned the relevancy of the request. The committee members were given copies of the requested document following the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm. Motion by Nebel/second by Wicihowski.