

BEAUMONT LIBRARY DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

6:30 p.m. at the Library - October 24, 2024
125 East Eighth St., Beaumont, CA

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – President Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

ROLL CALL – M. Coleman, B. Mahoney, C. Carr, M. Lillard-Geiser (via Zoom), L. Dickinson

ABSENT – S. Perry (excused)

GUESTS – K. Van Valkenburg, D. Roppelt, S. Weck

REPORT OF POSTING OF AGENDA – Agenda was posted 72 hours in advance.

1. CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting.

MOTION: (Mahoney/Coleman) to approve the Minutes as presented. (4-0-1)

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Van Valkenburg acted on the Director's behalf as he had taken vacation and attended the Public Library Directors Forum and the California Library Association conference in Pasadena in the weeks preceding the meeting.

General Ledger Report – She reported that Staff Day on October 14 was successful and that she attended City Council on October 1 when impact fees were discussed at length for the third time. The topic will be on the agenda again on November 5 when it may finally be passed. She noted expenses related to C.W. Driver and the Western Science Center (for museum passes, which have circulated 15 times in 10 months).

Activity Summary Report – Circulation for September was very close to September 2019 and new registrations, during National Library Card Sign-Up Month, were four times as high, so we are catching up with the pre-Covid time period.

Changes in Status of District Employees – Mr. Dickinson, who has been serving as an ex-officio/non-voting member of the Search Committee for a new Director, reported that great progress has been made since last month. Although the very first applicant was not qualified, six qualified applications have been received. Two are not being considered for interviews, one because of overall lack of experience and the other because of a spotty

career record. Two highly qualified candidates have been scheduled to be interviewed on October 26 at the Chatigny Center by the voting members of the Search Committee, led by Secretary Mahoney, Ms. Carr, and library consultant W. Disher, who is a resident of Beaumont. The other two qualified applicants are not being considered for interviews at this time because they are not quite at the top level for consideration. There were no changes in personnel during the month.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. GRANT UPDATES

We will be receiving two “Stargazing” kits through the Parks Pass grant program. Ms. Van Valkenburg reviewed the logistics plan for the library site during construction with demolition of the rental house expected later this year and groundbreaking to happen in mid-January. She presented slides of the Phase I and Phase II interior work along with a timeline of the entire project. She stated the Library is expecting to rent a property at 232 W. Sixth Street for office space, to handle literacy tutoring, and to house adult collection material that will not fit in the building during Phase I. There will be a lot of shifting of materials and workspaces that may involve hiring movers as well as closing the building on occasion in the coming months.

B. GOALS PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Dickinson went over his goals for the July through September quarter, which have all been accomplished—running successful summer and Lunch at the Library programs, attending the Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference, participating in the advertising/selection process for a new Director, and arranging interviews for the same.

C. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Van Valkenburg noted that our tax revenue is low through the first quarter because the bulk of taxes are received in December through May. Retirement expenses seem high because the unfunded accrued liability is 100% paid early in the fiscal year.

D. DEBT POLICY & BOND REPORT

The debt policy distributed at the last meeting was presented for a second review with a minor typographical correction.

MOTION: (Mahoney/Carr) to approve the Debt Policy as presented. (4-0-1)

The Assistant Director said that she and the Director had participated in discussions about bonds seven times since the last meeting. The interest rate was set on “Game Day” yesterday at 4.25% over 20 years. Spreadsheets that Mr. Dickinson had prepared were handed out showing that if expenditures exceeded income by 1% annually over twenty years that the bond debt could be paid off with nearly \$5 million left in library reserves. If expenses and income were equal, the reserves would be nearly \$10 million. Both

numbers would increase if impact fees should be approved. The \$8 million in bond proceeds could be available as soon as mid-November.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are scheduled for the last Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m., except to approve the budget early in June and to avoid the holidays in November and December when the meetings will be on the third Thursday.

MOTION: (Carr/Mahoney) to approve the 2025 Board Meeting Schedule as presented. (4-0-1)

B. 2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The 2025 Holiday Schedule is the same as in previous years except for the fact that allowances have been made to accommodate Saturday/Sunday workers, as well as Wednesday workers.

MOTION: (Mahoney/Carr) to approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule as presented. (4-0-1)

ADDED STARTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Dickinson highlighted the November library newsletter, which features a story on the previously unknown father-son World War veterans from Beaumont. He also gave details on the frieze over the original Carnegie librarian's office, which are pieces of a work entitled, "The Triumphal Entry of Alexander into Babylon" that dates to 1911.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

D. Roppelt, President of the Friends of the Beaumont Library, reported that the Big Book Sale brought in \$1,400, \$500 of which was a donation. Her 95-year-old mother gave a well-received program on quilts and related books at the annual meeting on October 22. The storage garage has been cleaned out and the last day for the bookstore will be December 14.

ADJOURNMENT - at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

DATE: