

BEAUMONT LIBRARY DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

6:30 p.m. at the Library – November 30, 2023
125 East Eighth St., Beaumont, CA

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – President Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and noted the excused absences of Mr. Mahoney and Ms. Carr.

ROLL CALL – M. Coleman, M. Lillard-Geiser, S. Perry, L. Dickinson

ABSENT – C. Carr, B. Mahoney

GUESTS – K. Van Valkenburg, D. Roppelt

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

1. CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting.

MOTION: (Perry/Coleman) to approve the Minutes as amended. (3-0-2)

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

General Ledger Report – The Director reported on several exceptional expenses for the month of October, including CPA and audit-related payments, e-book purchases paid through the statewide Palace Project grant, etc. He noted that \$200,000 in General Fund reserves have been moved to our CLASS account where we have earned over \$65,000 since June, including \$11,000 in the month of November.

Activity Summary Report – A video clip from the November 28 Riverside County Board of Supervisors meeting was shown where \$1 million in federal ARPA funding for our renovation/expansion project was approved. Assistant Director Van Valkenburg visited the Placentia and Banning library districts this month and accompanied the Director during the November 27 meeting with C.W. Driver staff. The topics discussed included the further design work that will begin soon and adjustments that will need to be made late next year when construction begins so that library operations can continue without too much disruption. Programs will have to be moved offsite at that time. Circulation for October was 3% higher than in October 2022 but 6% below October 2019. However, registrations were up 11%, Overdrive checkouts doubled, and Reference interactions were up 75% in October 2023 compared to October 2019.

Changes in Status of District Employees – Nadia Jawaid, Library Page, resigned effective November 24, to start a business venture.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. GRANT UPDATES

Mr. Dickinson shared the news that we have already been awarded \$18,000 in ESL grants for both FY25 and FY26. He also said that he had issued Notices to Proceed to the engineering firms that will be handling our property survey, geotechnical investigations, hazardous materials survey, and our CEQA environmental documentation.

B. ACA-1 UPDATE

An executive summary of the Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1, recently approved by the state legislature, was distributed. The issue will have to go for a public vote in November 2024. If approved, it would lower the approval threshold for bond issues from the current Proposition 13-mandated two-thirds to 55%. This would bring cities, counties, and special districts in line with school districts. We have been informed by Jason List of Isom Advisors that if we were to place a bond issue on the November 2024 ballot and it reached the 55% threshold, it would be counted as approved should ACA-1 be approved at the same time.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. WEDNESDAY HOURS

The Board was provided with spreadsheets showing the current operational schedule for library staff, with no service on Wednesdays, and an expanded seven-day schedule, with open hours of 1 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays. The Director also handed out a list of pros and cons should Wednesday hours be added. The primary benefits include better service for the public, especially school students, and the ability for full-time staff members to have two-day weekends. The negatives are costs associated with an extra day of cleaning that would be needed, as well as additional part-time work hours to cover vacations and sick days. The Assistant Director, who put together the proposed schedule, spoke on behalf of the change mentioning studies that show the benefits of having two consecutive days off, as well as the opportunity to schedule more programs on Wednesdays. The Director stated that even though he would continue taking Wednesdays off, as part of a seven-day schedule, he was open to a six-month trial with the understanding that the continuation of Wednesday hours would be part of FY25 budget discussions.

MOTION: (Perry/Lillard-Geiser) to approve opening on Wednesdays from 1 to 6 p.m. beginning in January on a six-month trial basis. (3-0-2)

B. 2024 SALARY SCALE

The 2024 salary scale was approved earlier in the year as part of the FY24 budget. At that time, there was no indication that the California minimum wage would be increased for

2024. However, a \$16.00 per hour state minimum wage has since been approved. As a result, the salary scale has been adjusted to reflect the new hourly rate for Library Pages beginning January 1, 2024. No other changes were necessary.

MOTION: (Lillard-Geiser/Perry) to approve the revision of the 2024 Salary Scale to bring it in line with the new California minimum wage for 2024. (3-0-2)

ADDED STARTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Ms. Lillard-Geiser expressed her pride in Beaumont Library and her happiness with our programs, which have been attended by her granddaughter and her grandmother.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Debra Roppelt, new President of the Friends Board, thanked the library trustees for the opportunity to report on recent Friends activities. Proceeds from the October book sale exceeded 2022 and Starlight Elementary Librarian Julie Salinas is a new Friends Board member. There are now 86 Friends members with a goal to reach 100. Another goal is better signage for the Friends bookstore, which will have expanded hours during three upcoming library programs. After a successful author talk during the Friends annual meeting, Ms. Lillard-Geiser suggested Lindsay Hill, a children's author, and teacher at Sundance Elementary, for future consideration.

ADJOURNMENT - at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

DATE: