

# BEAUMONT LIBRARY DISTRICT

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

6:30 p.m. at the Library – December 28, 2023  
125 East Eighth St., Beaumont, CA

### MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – Secretary Mahoney presided over the meeting, due to the excused absence of President Coleman, and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL – B. Mahoney, C. Carr, M. Lillard-Geiser, S. Perry, L. Dickinson  
ABSENT – M. Coleman

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

#### 1. CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting.

MOTION: (Perry/Lillard-Geiser) to approve the Minutes as presented with Ms. Carr abstaining. (3-0-1)

#### 2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

General Ledger Report – The Director highlighted expenses from last month related to maintenance of the Bookmobile, the consultant who prepared our Community Resiliency Center grant application, architect fees, and IT service. He also distributed an up-to-date statement for our CLASS account detailing contributions, withdrawals, and income for our sub-accounts. He noted that the Building Forward Infrastructure Grant sub-account has had withdrawals of \$52,000 since it was created but has earned income of \$63,657.35 during that time period, which has increased the overall amount still available.

Activity Summary Report – The Staff Appreciation Dinner, hosted by the Director on December 11 at Tuscano's Restaurant, was very successful with almost every employee attending. Prizes paid for by the Friends or received through corporate and personal donations were raffled off with each staff member winning something. Mr. Dickinson visited the Riverside Public Library's new main facility to attend a meeting of the Inland Library System Administrative Council on December 14. He and the Board discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the building's design. Circulation for November was 7% higher than in November 2022 but 12% below November 2019. Registration levels and the usage of e-materials, however, continue to exceed those of 2019.

Changes in Status of District Employees – Michelle Monroe, Library Page, began work December 4 at \$15.50 per hour, which will be increasing to \$16.00 per hour on January 1 to comply with the new California minimum wage.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. GRANT UPDATES

Mr. Dickinson updated the Board on the status of the Community Resiliency Center grant. Our application was submitted by the September 18 deadline. We had thought that awards were to be announced in December, but the latest information is that “qualified” applications will be confirmed in February and awards announced in April. The big grant news this month is that Beaumont Library has been awarded \$21,887 for the “Lunch at the Library” program for the summer of 2024. This is more than three times what we have ever been awarded in the past. We will be working hard on ways to spend this funding!

In other grant-related news, Maryland-based CTC Technology & Energy has decided, as of December 31, not to continue its service as an aggregator for CENIC, which supplies our Internet service. The State Library announced in a webinar last week that another aggregator has been selected, but the paperwork has yet to be signed. Califa, a California library nonprofit, had served as the previous aggregator until two years ago and applied to take over for CTC, but was not selected by the State Library despite being highly recommended. The new aggregator has yet to be announced.

The next round of LSTA (Library Services & Technology Act) grants will be opening on January 10 with applications due by March 6. Submission categories will include Community Impact, Play for All, Sustainable California Libraries, Teens Succeed, and eBooks for All. We are most interested in the “Play for All” grants because they will support the design and creation of “welcoming family play spaces” and “meaningful programming around play for marginalized young children.” This fits well with our Family Place Library program and could benefit our building expansion for play space both inside and outside the library.

#### B. BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

We are starting to make progress with the various filings and testing needed to proceed with our renovation/expansion project. We have prepared paperwork for the City, which will require fees, to combine the library property parcel plats with the rental house plat, as well as to give notification to property owners in the immediate vicinity of the pending construction. There are various fees involved that amount to a few thousand dollars. BKF Engineers will begin their land survey work after the first of the year.

We met with Universal Engineering Sciences (UES) employees on December 14 to discuss the three services they will be supplying. They stated that they could save us a large amount of money with the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) survey by making a “mitigated negative declaration” and filing a “notice of exemption” with the County Clerk. Basically, we would expedite the CEQA process by reporting that there is

no need for extensive documentation since the property is fully developed and does not involve wetlands, wildlife, etc. Members of the public would have 35 days to object to the exemption, and that is unlikely. Instead of the CEQA work costing \$115,000, it would be in the \$20,000 range.

UES started work last week with the hazardous materials survey that will conclude next week with more lead testing. They will start their geo-technical survey tomorrow, which will involve drilling core samples in and around the footprint of the proposed facility.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. REVISED 2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

With the addition of Wednesday hours in January, it is necessary to revise the 2024 holiday schedule previously approved by the Board. All the changes are in the months of November and December when those working or not working on Wednesdays are affected by the way different holidays fall on the calendar.

MOTION: (Carr/Perry) to approve the revised 2024 holiday schedule as presented. (4-0-1)

##### B. VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX SERVICE

Beaumont Library will be partnering with VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) early next year to provide free tax preparation for low-to-moderate income families.

#### ADDED STARTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Anita Worthen, who has handled the annual Vet Expo at City Hall for years and who has arranged library presentations for the Four Seasons HOA, has been named "Citizen of the Year" by the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce. She will be honored at a luncheon at the Morongo Golf Club on January 19 and the Library will be sending a representative.

#### TRUSTEE COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

None.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT - at 7:02 p.m.

APPROVED:

DATE: