

# BEAUMONT LIBRARY DISTRICT

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

6:30 p.m. at the Library – September 26, 2023  
125 East Eighth St., Beaumont, CA

### MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – President Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. following the reception honoring Milton Cook on his retirement after three decades with Friends of the Beaumont Library, over 20 years as President.

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

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

#### 1. CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting.

MOTION: (Mahoney/Perry) to approve the Minutes as amended. (5-0-0)

#### 2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

General Ledger Report – The Director noted that the final June financial reports had finally been received from Riverside County. The final FY23 revenue report he presented showed that the Library's revenue had exceeded \$2.5 million for the first time—a 16% increase over FY22. He also highlighted a few different expenses for the month. The August statement from CLASS showed over \$30,000 in interest earned since mid-June. Mr. Dickinson reported that the California Senate passed ACA-1 on September 11. It would lower the approval threshold for municipalities and special districts from two-thirds to 55% if approved by voters in November 2024.

Activity Summary Report – Circulation was down 4% compared to August 2022, but that can be accounted for because we were closed one day for Tropical Storm Hilary. All other measures were up double digits, however, but circulation was still below 2019.

Changes in Status of District Employees – Allison Peyton, Supervising Librarian for Adult Services, submitted her letter of resignation, effective September 15, to pursue other career opportunities.

#### 3. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. GRANT UPDATES

We learned recently our annual grant for Adult and Family literacy will total \$37,754 and we received a check for \$12,600, which is 45% of the \$28,000 we have been awarded for the statewide Palace Project e-book program. Working with a grant writing consultant provided through BKF Engineers, one of C.W. Driver's partner groups, we submitted a grant application on September 18 through the state's Community Resilience Centers program. It could bring in a few million dollars for our renovation/expansion program. The services of the grant writing consultant would typically have been incorporated into C.W. Driver's contract, but we asked to pay the costs directly in order to meet the grant deadline. Fees will be billed monthly, not to exceed \$15,000. Building Forward Round 2 award announcements have been moved from third quarter to fall of 2023.

MOTION: (Coleman/Lillard-Geiser) to approve payment to BKF Engineers for grant writing consultant services, not to exceed \$15,000. (5-0-0)

#### B. DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACT

No contract paperwork has been received from architect Alex Ramsey for the services of C.W. Driver, perhaps because the meeting date was moved forward by two days. Ms. Ramsey provided significant contributions toward our Community Resilience Center grant application and will continue to work with us until a contract with C.W. Driver is approved. There are due diligence tasks that can get started in the meantime, such as soliciting of contracts for geotechnical investigations, surveys and the seismic study of the original building, etc. We will still be on schedule.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. SOCAL EDISON AND CALPERS CASES

We recently received two class action legal filings. One is from Southern California Edison. It claims that it has been overcharged for property taxes over the last few years to the tune of over \$30 billion. An earlier precedent was set by the BNSF (Burlington Northern Santa Fe) Railway. In that case, BNSF was able to recoup State Board of Equalization tax funds to make up for the overcharges. The Director has been working with Riverside County Deputy Counsel Bruce Fordon who provided an estimate of the total impact for Beaumont Library, should the suit be successful, totaling about \$11,000. It is likely that such a payment would be deducted over three years from new taxes.

The other case started with a CalPERS employee who claimed disability after being terminated from her position in northern California about a decade ago. She has won earlier suits, including one that required her legal expenses of over \$800,000 to be paid. She tried suing CalPERS directly for miscalculating disability pensions but was required to sue each CalPERS employer instead—over 1500 different employers, including cities, counties, school districts, and special districts. This case will not affect us because we have no known disability retirements.

#### B. STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

An agenda for the Staff Development Day, scheduled to take place on October 9, was distributed to the Board. Mr. Dickinson will be opening that program with a slide presentation on our renovation/expansion plans. Included will be photos that he took of the Wichita, Kansas downtown library, which is called the Advanced Learning Center, during the recent Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference. He gave the trustees a look at the beautiful facility that had many wonderful spaces for adults, teens, and children and included a lot of new technology. Several sections of the building were named for different donors and it was apparent that there was significant foundation and corporate support that helped fund the structure.

#### ADDED STARTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The City may be seeking to expand its "sphere of influence" into Calimesa through LAFCO. We have asked to be included in that effort and are waiting to hear back from the Mayor. Board members are asked to contribute candy for the Trunk of Treat program by October 28. We will do Carol's Kitchen food drives starting in October.

#### TRUSTEE COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Ms. Carr noticed a burned spot at the entrance and wondered whether a gate would be needed to protect the building. Ms. Coleman asked if the Carol's Kitchen donation bin could be kept out year-round since the need is so great.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

#### CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: (Mahoney/Carr) to go into closed session at 7:41 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. (5-0-0)

No action was taken during the Closed Session and the meeting returned to open session at 7:49 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT - at 7:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

DATE: