

WEBER COUNTY LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

Date: June 3, 2014

Board Members

In Attendance: Kathleen Herndon  
Brent Innes  
Eric Jacobson  
Spencer Stokes  
Tom Taylor  
Commissioner Jan Zogmaister

Board Members

Excused: Scott Spencer

Others in

Attendance: Evelyn Bertilson, Friends of the Library  
Marcia Harris, Development Board  
Lynnda Wangsgard, Library Director  
Karen Burton, Associate Library Director  
Phoebe Carter, Youth Services Manager  
Julia Valle, Business Office Manager

Taylor called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Approval of May April 1, 2014 Meeting Minutes:

Jacobsen moved acceptance of the May 6, 2014 meeting minutes as written. Herndon seconded the motion. All voted in the affirmative.

Director's Report:

Usage statistics documented increases in several categories when compared to those of the previous year. The number of materials borrowed increased by 7.78%; the number of individuals attending meetings in library facilities increased by 29.85%; reference service transactions increased by 2.2%; and program attendance increased from an average of 31.49 to 34.63 per event.

The number of monthly visits showed a slight decrease over that of the previous year, falling from 109,868 to 106,972. This decrease was likely due to the fewer number of programs sponsored during 2014 (236) compared to 2013 (264). Wangsgard explained that the Board should expect to see the number of new library cards issued continue to decline until the new Southwest Branch opens to the public. Over the first couple of years after the Pleasant Valley Branch opened, approximately 9,000 new library cards were issued. At the current point in time, the pool of potential new cardholders has diminished and the number of new cards issued will

not be as large as during previous years. When the Headquarters Library opens, at least 10,000 new cards will be issued and then the pool of eligible/interested users in this area of the County will begin to diminish, resulting in the number of new cards issued each month decreasing. This same increase, followed by a decrease, will be experienced as a renovated Main Library comes on-line and again as the expanded North Branch brings new customers.

All expenditures were within expected parameters. Innes asked about income from the lease space at Pleasant Valley Branch. Wangsgard referred the Board to the "rents" line item on the revenue portion of the spreadsheet.

Herndon moved acceptance of the Director's Report. Innes seconded the motion. All voted in the affirmative.

#### Awards Received by Weber County Library System:

The following awards received by the Library System were reviewed at the Board's request.

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, "We Believe in Heroes Award," 1990  
*"Awarded in recognition of the staff and Library Board's uncompromising public service ethic."*

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, "George Washington Honor Medal," 2012  
*"Awarded for Weber Reads and its theme The Founders and Their Documents, which promotes an understanding and appreciation for our country's rich heritage, principles, and unique freedoms."*

Association for Library Service to Children, "Model Summer Reading Program Grant/Award," 2000  
*"Awarded to support development of a model summer reading program to be distributed throughout the U.S."*

Ogden/Weber Chamber of Commerce, "Athena Award" 2001  
*"Awarded to the Library Director for her innovative use of public funding to maximize life-long learning opportunities for the people of Weber County."*

Bill and Melinda Gates "Public Computer Center Training Award/Grant," 2002  
*"Awarded to support the Library's exemplary computer training opportunities."*

Utah Heritage Foundation's, "Building Stewardship Award," 2004  
*"Awarded to the Library Board of Trustees in recognition for their 40-year commitment to maintain the beauty, functionality, and architectural style of the Main Library building."*

American Library Association's:

"Best of Show, Friends of the Library/Community Publication Award," 2000

"Best of Show, Children's Summer Reading Program Award," 2001

"Best of Show, Friends of the Library/Community Publication Award," 2001

"Best of Show, Friends of the Library/Community Publication Award," 2002

"Best of Show, Children's Summer Reading Program Award," 2003

"Honorable Mention, Professional Recruitment Program Materials Award," 2004

"Best of Show, Children's Summer Reading Program Award," 2005

"Best of Show, Special Programs and Events Award," 2006

"Best of Show, Children's Summer Reading Program Award," 2006

"Best of Show, Fundraising Materials Award," 2007

"Best of Show, Professional Recruitment Program Materials Award," 2007

"Honorable Mention, Children's Summer Reading Program Award," 2007

"Best of Show, Special Programs and Events - America Reads Award," 2008

"Best of Show, Adult and Family Reading Materials/One Book, One Community Award," 2009

"Best of Show, Adult and Family Reading Materials/One Book, One Community Award," 2010

"Best of Show, "Special Programs and Events – Pleasant Valley Branch Dedication and Grand Opening," 2010

"Honorable Mention, You Are Here, Teen Summer Reading Award," 2012

"Honorable Mention, Ogden Valley Branch Retreat Brochure, Innovation Award" 2012

"Best of Show, Summer of Survival, Teen and Young Adult Summer Reading Award," 2013

"Best of Show, Special Programs, Weber Reads Emily Dickinson Award," 2013

Utah Library Association's "Community Service Award," 1984

*"Awarded to the Weber County Library Development Board for their commitment to raise funds to enhance the North Branch Library."*

"Community Service Award," 2005

*"Awarded to Friends of the Weber County Library System for their 40-year advocacy and support of public library services in Weber County and throughout the State."*

Utah Humanities Council's "Human Ties Award," 2008

*"Awarded to the Ogden Valley Branch for their community ties discussion series."*

Utah Chapter, American Institute of Architects' "Honor Award," 2008

*"Awarded to the Pleasant Valley Branch Library for its civic pride that harkens back to an earlier time, but is also progressive."*

American Libraries' "Library Design Showcase Award," 2010

*"Awarded to the Pleasant Valley Branch Library for overall architectural design and special accomplishments in 'Building Community, Technology, and Youth Services Spaces.'"*

Utah Masonry Council's "Excellence in Masonry Design Award," 2010.

*"Awarded to the Pleasant Valley Branch Library for craftsmanship and attention to detail in building construction."*

Rocky Mountain Power's "Energy Resource Stewardship Award," 2011.

*"Awarded to the Pleasant Valley Branch Library for completing the installation of energy efficiency improvements, which it is estimated will save 71,522 kWh/year" or more than \$1,100,000 over the life of the building.*

United for Libraries, a Division of American Library Association, Special Project Award," 2014.

*"United for Libraries and Baker & Taylor, the world's largest book wholesaler, recognized Friends of the Weber County Library for their outstanding effort to support the 2013 general obligation bond election. This national award was based on their planning, implementation, evaluation, innovation, and community involvement. Friends received a \$1,000 contribution from Baker & Taylor. The award was presented during the annual meeting of the American Library Association."*

### Review of Summer Literacy Programs:

Carter reviewed a sampling of the summer literacy programs sponsored by the Library System. The "Laugh It Up" children's summer reading program was based around the goal of encouraging young people to read every day. Children who return their reading signature cards will be rewarded with prizes provided, in part, with support from foundations and the private sector. More than 3,000 children signed up during the first week of the program. The total number of registrants will exceed 7,000.

The "Un-program" was designed for teens and focused on reading and other learning activities to help engage young people in learning activities during the summer months.

Weber Reads Reading in the Parks was programmed around *Charolette's Web*, by E.B. White, and was being offered in conjunction with the free lunch program in a number of parks.

America Reads is one-on-one tutoring program where children reading below grade level are paired with an adult sponsor to practice reading throughout the summer. Approximately 350 young people will take part in this activity and a graduation celebration will be held in August at the Main Library.

Carter distributed the summer Events Calendar and the Board discussed several of the programs, including the senior meal service provided in conjunction with aging services and hosted at Ogden Valley Branch; gentle movements classes for those whose failing health puts them at risk for physical fragility; and a multitude of family projects that will bring parents and children to the Library together to engage in fun activities that enhance literacy skills.

Bertilson reported on Margaret Rostkowski, Weber Reads Coordinator, and her book, *After the Dancing Days*, a story about returning World War I soldiers. Rostkowski's book was chosen as the community-wide reading selection in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where Margaret was invited to attend the week-long festivities as a speaker and honored guest. The Johnstown Reads events will include 14 stations set up on the college campus, consisting of presentations by college faculty on all aspects of the book.

Herndon noted that *After the Dancing Days* has been translated into several non-English languages and is still a widely recommended read for young adults. Margaret will, no doubt, incorporate meaningful elements of the Johnstown reading program into Weber Reads.

#### Selection of Nominees to Fill Seat on Library Board of Trustees:

Herndon's first term on the Board was drawing to a close and she was favorable to serving a second term. As her application indicated, Herndon chairs the English Department at Weber State University, a position from which she provides valuable resources for the Library. For example, Herndon is currently a member, and former board member, of the National Association for Multicultural Teachers, she teaches children's and young adult literature courses for the Utah Curriculum Consortium, she leads book discussions for the Utah Humanities Council, and she has made presentations on Muslim women writers in the "Roads Scholar" program.

In these and in countless other ways, Herndon serves as a liaison with Weber State University where she connects Library programs and services with teaching professionals and trainers who play a significant role in the continuing improvement of all the Library undertakes. She has also been deeply immersed in the planning for new Library facilities and will be a knowledgeable asset to the Board as the plans are implemented.

Stokes moved, and Jacobson seconded the motion, that Herndon's name be forward to commission for reappointment. All voted in favor of the motion except Zogmaister who abstained as she will review the appointment when it is presented to the Commission.

Discussion then focused on how to proceed in the event the Commission declines to accept the Board's prioritized recommendation to reappoint Herndon. To this end, all fifteen on-file applications were reviewed and criteria developed to select candidates who would present a well-thought-out list of alternate nominees.

The Board took several criteria into consideration in evaluating the applications, most importantly: geographical representation, ability to help with fundraising for enhancements to the new and expanded libraries, and established contacts and working relationships with those who can help leverage cooperation with and among the various governmental entities that will be involved in completing the capital projects.

After considerable discussion, the following individuals were selected:

Craig Dearden – Lives in North Ogden (the board does not have a current member who lives in the northern portion of Weber County)

Kathleen Jensen – Lives in Ogden Valley (Taylor currently lives in Ogden Valley but is moving to Ogden, resulting in the board not having a current member who is a resident of Ogden Valley)

Judith B. Jones – Lives in Pleasant View (the board does not have a current member who lives in the northern portion of Weber County)

Stokes moved, and Jacobson second a motion, to forward the above list of nominees to the County Commissioners for consideration without prioritization. It was thought they were equally well-suited to serving in a manner that would better position the Board to excel in meeting the challenges of bringing new and renovated libraries to the public by enlisting the support of foundations, the private sector, and the cooperation and support of other governmental entities. The motion passed with all members voting in the affirmative except Zogmaister who abstained.

2015 Budget Priorities:

It was agreed that the FY 2015 budget priorities would be focused around opening of the Southwest Branch/Headquarters Library while working to also maintain the quality of programs and services currently provided throughout the Library System. A tentative budget will be presented to the Board in August.

It was reiterated that the fund balance is being reserved to purchase collections for the new facilities and help absorb the increased operating expense of operating the new and expanded facilities until growth provides the additional revenue needed to accommodate the tremendous increase in usage that will come with the new facilities.

Other:

There being no further business, Stokes moved, and Zogmaister seconded the motion, to adjourn. All voted ‘aye.’”

Respectfully submitted: Julia Valle 7/1/14  
Julia Valle Date