

Bellevue Library Board Minutes

February 18, 2014

Present:

Board: Judy Bailey, Alice Lee, Loretta Lopez, Peter Maxim, Barbara Spindel
KCLS: Kirsten Corning, Debra Westwood
Guests: Marj Leidy, Jim Moore
Absent Board: Chiho Lai

The meeting was called to order at 5PM by Vice President Alice Lee due to Chiho's absence. Approval of the minutes from January was postponed until corrections were made to the spelling in Debra Westwood's name.

Old Business:

Barbara Spindel reported from the Newport Way Friends. In light of not being able to hold a spring book sale, they were sending stored books to Thrift Books for internet sale. This was an experiment to see if sales at more than \$1 would compare to in library book sales where some of the better books were purchased by professional booksellers.

Marj Leidy reported that the Bellevue Friends shop was increasing open hours that were lost during the parking lot closure. The shop is now open 10-4 on weekdays and is open on Saturday. Marj hopes to extend the current 10-1 weekend hours to 10-4.

Debi reported that she had made a community presentation to the KCLS Board of Trustees at their January 29th regular meeting. There was a large turnout of Mercer Island residents at that meeting, there to discuss the proposed remodel of their library. The large number of speakers from Mercer Island made Debi's presentation take place late in the meeting but Judy Bailey reported that it was very informative and well received. Debi planned to present highlights of her presentation later in this meeting.

Debi reported that the information about the current opening on the Bellevue Library Advisory Board was posted at all libraries and asked members to post it wherever they thought of value. The opening is a 15 month appointment completing Andrew Peabody's term which expires 5/31/15. It was the understanding of the Board that completing a partial term would constitute the new member's first term.

Debi reported that Crossroads is up and running with all stored boxes back in circulation.

Feedback from the community is that the World Language collection is larger and the English language collection smaller. The reality is that the World Collection is the same in size but relocated to a more prominent place in the library. The English language is smaller because they have reduced the non-fiction collection in light of poor circulation and also eliminated many of the paperbacks.

She said that there was new senior housing being built so there may be an increased demand for the English collection but people can go to the nearby full service Lake Hills Library. She said that Crossroads is a "taste" library and was never intended to be a full service one.

In light of difficulty hearing at the checkout desk during story times, they are thinking about moving the story times out of the library and into the mall area. The location is not yet determined.

The 6 DVD checkout limit will stay in light of the huge popularity of these items. Holds are unaffected by this limit but staff has adopted a policy of putting out materials in stages so they have a supply throughout the day. There are no holds allowed on any of the material in the Crossroads

collection which allows patrons to have access to popular items that are not often seen on the shelves of full service libraries.

Bellevue Library is planning on sending additional children's and music items to the Crossroads collection.

When asked how Crossroads compared to Southcenter, another browsing library, Debi reported that Southcenter is not as busy with 14,000 items circulated in January as compared to 22,000 at Crossroads. She attributed this, in part, due to Southcenter not being a neighborhood walking destination.

New Business:

Debi announced that the Bank of America building in the Lake Hills shopping center was scheduled for demolition on March 5th. Parking will still be available under the library but it might be a hectic place to be around demolition time. Jim Moore reported he had seen library patrons exiting the library along the construction site fence.

Programming announcements at Bellevue included free tax help from trained AARP volunteers at all KCLS libraries. Debi anticipates higher demand for these classes due to IRS cutbacks in tax help. Free help is also offered by United Way and North Bellevue Community Center.

Bellevue is partnering with "Wintergrass" for concerts at Bellevue Library February 19th and 22nd.

Kirsten Corning reported that Newport Way Library programming will bring "Living Voices" poetry to schools. The SAT workshop has been confirmed and there will also be a Summer Job Interview program. College Prep classes are scheduled for the fall and in February there was a successful teen program called "Blind Date with Books". To promote reading, the teen librarian wrote clues about what was inside and stuck them on gift wrapped books. The teens were able to take home free prepublication copies of the books they chose. Chinese Play and Learn will continue as well as Fiestas on Saturdays. The Teen Advisory Council is going well and will be meeting on Wednesday afternoons (early dismissal day) one day per month.

Bellevue stopped the Teen Volunteer program during the garage remodel but is now in the process of starting it again. Kirsten reported that there are clear age and time guidelines for teen volunteers at Newport Way and that the Volunteer Advisory Council would provide an opportunity for a few hours and be open to teens less than 14 because it was supervised by a librarian.

Kirsten offered to send electronic copies of KCLS Insights which highlights programming at the Newport Way/Mercer Island/Newcastle cluster. Alice and Marj requested copies and Barbara will send their e-mail addresses to Kirsten.

Debi reported KCLS' Summer Reading Program is transitioning to a Summer Learning Program which is being offered in partnership with schools to help alleviate the "summer slide". Presenters will focus on "STREAM" i.e. science, technology, reading arts and math. KCLS will be supplying already developed summer reading programs with agencies like the Boys and Girls Club.

Judy Bailey followed up on an e-mail she had received asking if people check their DVD and CD cases at checkout to make sure materials are there. She asked if there could be signage advising patrons to check before leaving the library. Kirsten said signage gets lost and that every patron gets one "free pass" if they say material was not in the case. After that, they are expected to check. Staff checks when

items are returned but materials disappear once they are shelved. Because of high theft, some branches like Crossroads keep the DVDs behind the checkout desk.

Debi was asked if there were any incidents of crime in the Garage. She reported there were no incidents of car break in but a couple of people were sleeping in the main level that is always open. A parking monitor checks every 4 hours and chalks the tires. There have been some problems with people blocking the exits while waiting to pick up patrons. Loretta suggested putting up "No Waiting" signs rather than "No Parking" signs.

The meeting concluded with a presentation from Debi's Community profile of Bellevue. Her focus was that Bellevue is a very diverse community and not just a bedroom community of Seattle with a high end mall and high tech companies. Highlights were:

- Population is approximately 123,000 with a working population of 140,000

- 40% of the population is from minority groups

- 1/5 is less than 18

- 22% are on free or reduced lunch

- 32% speak another language at home

- 80 different languages are spoken

- 47% white

- 52% Asian or Pacific Island

- Housing in Bellevue is amongst the 5 highest in the state

Peter moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15PM and Barbara seconded. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Spindel