

Minutes

Warrenton Community Library Board Regular Meeting

June 8, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.

Warrenton City Commission Chambers
225 South Main Ave., Warrenton, OR 97146

1. Call to order: Kelsey opened the meeting at 5:30.

2. Roll call: Kelsey Balensifer, Dawn DeLacey (by Zoom), Karyn Grass, Amanda Donovan, and Eileen Purcell. Also attending: Library Director Kelly Knudsen and City Manager Linda Engbretson. Unable to attend: Joy Wheatley-Decius. Natalie Duggan has resigned.

3. Recognition of guests: Dave Zunkel and Mike Vetrichek, both from the WCL Friends group.

4. Public comment: None.

5. Consent calendar

A. Regular Meeting Minutes 3.9.22: There were a few small updates to these minutes.

B. Special Meeting Minutes 4.6.2: After minor adjustments and corrections, Kelsey asked for a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Karyn moved to approve the minutes, Amanda seconded and all approved.

6. Discussion items

A. Library director's report: the summer reading program, Reading Beyond the Beaten Path, kicked off with over 75 in attendance. There were 6 stations featuring hotdogs and crafts. It was pouring rain, but a packed library interior accommodated the crowd.

There is a stuffed animal sleep-over planned at the library, an art day and a visit from the Regatta princesses. All these events are posted on Facebook.

B. Friend Group update: 16 people have signed up to become Friends. There is \$600 in the bank. There is one more scheduled Library After Dark on June 18.

C. Board member vacancy: Natalie Duggan has had to step down due to work and family obligations. We appreciate her service on the board. There is an application

available on the city website for those who are interested. We are a seven-member board.

7. Action items

A. Local option levy rate: we discussed what recommendation we should present to the city commissioners. The discussion centered on present economic conditions and asking for a \$0.10 increase at this point doesn't seem wise. Yet maintaining current programming levels and restoring recently curtailed staffing hours led us to agree upon recommending a more modest \$0.05 increase in the levy. Linda said that this increase in revenues might fund making a full time position out of a current part time one. The levy, if it passes this November, would fund the library from 07/2023 through 06/2028.

We discussed the building again. Linda told us that urban renewal dollars are primarily for private property owners. She also asked if the board wanted to submit a formal petition to the commissioners to look into buying the current building. There was discussion about the worthiness of the building and if buying was the best choice. We need more information before we make a formal recommendation.

Linda can look into the school's inclination to sell and what the property is assessed for now. If the city did buy it, the library would have a significant savings in rent payments that maybe could be applied to staffing shortages. We know the building isn't great, but we don't know what it will take to fix it, or what the city codes say about how the property could be altered. We should work to get the school district on board for the levy increase. We can take out an ad in the Ballot book to make clear how much the increase will raise taxes.

Kelsey asked for a motion to submit the recommendation to put the levy request at \$0.38 per thousand, an increase of \$0.05. Karyn moved to approve and Eileen seconded. All voted to approve. The recommendation will be presented at the city commission meeting on June 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. It would be good to have as many of us as possible be present.

8. Good of the order: Don't forget to attend the next Library After Dark featuring a reading from a local author, Melissa Eskue Ousley, on June 18.

9. Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 6:17 p.m.

Meeting Minutes were taken and recorded by Eileen Purcell, Board Secretary.