

## Mount Vernon Library Foundation Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2014 5:30 p.m.

Himalaya Property Management Offices

**Board Members Present:** Carmen Bruner, Nancy Talbot Doty, Peter Goldfarb, Kelly Reep, Roger Ragusa, Sara Patton, Chuck Smith, and Staff Liaison Brian Soneda

**Board Members Absent:** Marija Anderson, Scott Correa, Harold Page

**Guests:** Mayor Jill Boudreau

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Vice President Peter Goldfarb called the meeting to order at 5:32 and introduced Mayor Jill Boudreau.

**II. MINUTES:** The minutes were approved as corrected.

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chuck reported a balance of \$7188.81 as of October 31, 2014 with \$1.24 in interest. There were no expenditures.

**IV. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Brian reported that Kevin Kane of SHKS, the consultant doing the Needs Assessment, was finalizing some detail information in response to staff questions. He expected the formal report to be submitted soon. Nancy asked if any of our expressed concerns, such as location and square footage, were being addressed. Brian noted that these issues had been considered but that the main purpose of the study was to determine and report on what the general public was interested in having in an expanded library. Thus the study was just a starting point, rather than a final recommendation to the City Council.

**V. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** Mayor Boudreau assured the Foundation Board that she totally supports the building of a new library for Mount Vernon and agreed with Brian that the Needs Assessment process served as a "scoping study" to "take the pulse of the community" and determine the wants and needs of the community before discussing funding or going out for a bond issue. Thus the study should be considered a first step in the process.

She noted that there had been little dialogue about a new library with the City Council members at this point due to budgetary concerns and the need to develop a budget to be discussed in November. A decrease in revenue may require cost cutting by the City or consideration of tax increases so discussions as to the next steps for the library will probably be delayed until December or January. At that point a number of issues need to be considered, such as infrastructure, zoning, available property, transportation, etc., as well as funding. While some of these studies could be done by City staff, the concern is that they already have a number of pressing assignments before adding additional work. Thus the process will take time.

The Mayor stressed how important it was to build favorable support among City Council members and within the community as well. To demonstrate what other communities had done with their libraries—both old and new—, two tours were organized for City Council members in which they visited a number of libraries in Everett and Seattle branch libraries and were impressed with their solutions to many of our shared problems. In addition to Mayor Boudreau, Councilmen Dale Ragan, Joe Lindquist, Mark Hulst and Ken Quam participated.

The Mayor also discussed various locations being considered for a new library. The current site could be expanded into the current parking lot with a two story building that included parking. This would take advantage of the transportation system and efforts to improve the downtown. Another site considered is the area around Roosevelt School and the current School District Administration building. This could develop into a joint project with the County, School District and possibly a private commercial component and help to revitalize the whole area. In answer to the possibility of using the current library focusing on children, she pointed out that the overhead of two separate facilities would be costly. She also noted that a multigenerational approach was more appealing.

The next step will be to encourage support by the City Council. Brian added that public attendance at City Council meetings would help that effort. Again, the Mayor emphasized that the economy was the biggest barrier to overcome. She also encouraged the Foundation to do research on how other communities have raised private funding through sponsorships, etc. to help pay for the facility.

#### **VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Library Tours: Chuck and Peter who both attended one of the library tours noted how helpful it was to see how various libraries were able to achieve more spatial flexibility and deal with the advances in technology. They were especially impressed with the Everett Library, an older structure built in the 1930s. They encouraged other Board members to visit as well.

B. Nancy Doty reported that no further efforts were made to follow up on the Public Survey services of Stuart Elway at this point. She also officially tendered her resignation as a Foundation Board Member since she is moving to Lacey in mid-December. We will miss her ideas and advice.

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. As we've done the past two years, we agreed that the December meeting would be a dinner meeting with spouses, partners, etc. Kelly and Peter agreed to check into restaurants for Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. Roger suggested each of us bringing a gift for under \$5. Kelly will send emails out to sign up for the dinner so that we can give the restaurant an idea as to numbers.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Patton  
Secretary