

Mount Vernon City Library
Foundation Board Meeting
Minutes of June 13, 2016

Call to order: 5:35 PM at Himalaya Property Management meeting room.

Roll call: Roger Ragusa, Marija Anderson, Chuck Smith, Peter Goldfarb, Scott Correa (guest), Jorge Manzanera; Brian Soneda (staff liaison).

Minutes for April 11 and May 9 minutes were reviewed and approved, April as submitted, May 9 as amended (correction of organization title from “Mount Vernon City Library Foundation” to “Mount Vernon Library Foundation” and correction of the spelling of Ms. Anderson’s first name to “Marija”); moved by Mr. Ragusa, seconded by Mr. Smith, all were in favor.

Treasurer’s Report: Mr. Smith reported income of \$35 (membership) and .71 (interest), and reported expense of \$70 for PO Box rental renewal, with Foundation account at \$8,177.93. He also reported that he had done the annual filing for Foundation tax exempt status with IRS 990 form and status had been confirmed on May 21st.

Discussion followed of the Foundation sponsorship of a Riverwalk Concert series performance on August 18, featuring band Polecat. After said discussion, including questions about what marketing opportunities the sponsorship provided, Mr. Goldfarb moved that the \$1,000 sponsorship of the August 18 Riverwalk Concert be approved. Mr. Ragusa seconded the motion, all were in favor.

With Mr. Soneda’s main point of contact on the Riverwalk Concert series being the City’s Community and Economic Development Director, Bob Hyde, the question of Mr. Hyde’s future plans came up; Mr. Hyde had previously announced that he was a finalist for the general manager position at Skagit PUD. Mr. Soneda responded that he had heard the process was on hold and that Mr. Hyde was still very much the City’s C&ED Director. On the subject of City Department Heads, Mr. Soneda was asked about the new Fire Chief, Brian Brice. Mr. Soneda responded that he had not yet talked at any length with Chief Brice, but he was an extraordinarily qualified Chief and seemed like he was getting up to speed very fast.

Ms. Anderson brought up the subject of Foundation director absenteeism at Board meetings; two directors who were frequently absent will be contacted to clarify their ability and desire to remain directors. Mr. Ragusa reminded the group that everyone needed to be thinking about and sounding out potential future appointments to the Foundation Board.

Ms. Anderson gave an overview of her letter on behalf of the Library Foundation in the upcoming *Celebrating a Century of Service* magazine insert in the *Skagit Valley Herald*. Further discussion about the magazine insert content followed, with Mr. Ragusa agreeing to work on back inside cover content, also on behalf of the Foundation.

Director's Report: Mr. Soneda talked about the July 30 Centennial Social, which now included programming and performances by the New Old Time Chautauqua troupe, which would be in Mount Vernon on July 29 and 30. He invited directors to attend the Social and related events. Mr. Correa asked to speak on the subject of fabric (aka membrane) buildings. He had received a quote from Spring Instant Structure, the biggest fabric building firm in the world, for a prospective 15,000 square foot fabric building library. The cost for foundation and shell would be in the ballpark of the Sonya Beard Bequest fund administered by the Skagit Community Foundation, around \$700,000. With funding for the "bare bones" of a small but very functional and sturdy fabric building library already in place (Beard fund), Mr. Correa asked if this might encourage the City to feel that the insides, furnishings and collection needed to complete the project were a very reasonable cost to the City or taxpayers. Discussion of the feasibility of a fabric building as the new library followed. Mr. Correa brought up the examples of churches and casinos that were successful, sturdy and attractive fabric buildings. Mr. Smith shared that he had visited the casino in Port Gamble and described it as "beautiful." Mr. Soneda shared that there was at least enough interest in the idea that he believed the City's Fire Marshal and Buildings Official would visit the same Port Gamble facility that Mr. Smith mentioned, to study feasibility including whether there were fire safety issues to be considered. Further discussion to follow.

With the meeting running long, Ms. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.

Meeting notes by Brian Soneda,
Library director and substitute note taker in Secretary Relyea's absence.