

Tillamook County Library Board Minutes – December 11, 2018

Board Members Present: (y) Shiela Zerngast, (y) Betsy Chase, (y) Chris Chiola, (y) Bob Favret, (n) Cheryl Hantke, (y) Ruth LaFrance (n) Neal Lemery

Staff Present: (y) Sara Charlton, (y) Sarah Beeler, (y) Bill Landau (y) Jessica Darling

Guest Present: BOCC Liaison David Yamamoto, Community Member Mary Groves, South County Community Member Wendy Harding de Rham, South County Community Member Sue Gabriel

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Shiela Zerngast at 12:05 pm

Motion made to approve the November minutes by Ruth LaFrance, seconded by Bob Favret, all in favor.

Budget Report:

The courier van has several problems including a leaking seal that resulted in water damaged books. The total for needed repairs is \$4000. The van was purchased in 2011 for \$17,200 and has 150,000 miles. Bill is gathering information on replacement costs versus repair and will keep the board informed.

Director's Report:

A neighbor reported camping, carousing and Wi-Fi usage next to the Tillamook County Library after closing. The Wi-Fi has been turned off between 2:00 am and 6:00am. Tillamook City Police were notified and asked to drive during the early morning hours. The problem seems to have been solved. Shiela Zerngast noted that her staff at the Tillamook Coliseum have noted an uptick in this type of behavior.

The extension cord lighting the outside holiday decoration was stolen from Main. Camera footage of the theft will be given to the police.

A patron sleeping in a bathroom has been banned. A patron had a meltdown in the lobby and was taken to get mental health assistance by law enforcement. A settlement was reached with the patron attempting to sell stolen Library DVDs. She will pay \$300 restitution, is banned from the library for 2 years and the DVDs, currently in evidence, will be returned to Main.

The Director met with the new Lincoln County Library District Director, MaryKay Dahlgreen. Lincoln County Library District and Tillamook County Libraries used to be part of a larger network of coastal libraries.

The software that notifies our patrons of holds and other issues has been updated.

The County Christmas Party will be held on Thursday December 20th at 3:00 pm, Tillamook County Courthouse, Meeting Rooms A and B. Commissioner Yamamoto said that it is a morale building effort by the County and was a great event last year. The Tillamook County Library will close at 3pm so staff can attend. Branches will close at 2pm to give staff driving time to the event.

Strategic Plan:

Betsy Chase gave an overview of the third and final meeting of Phase One of the Tillamook County Library Futures Strategic Planning Committee. Meeting notes were distributed. Highlights included: revisiting the original strategic plan and framework; expanding partnerships; the connection between closing libraries and failing communities; and engaging the broader community in strategic planning and identifying service priorities.

The Futures Committee recommended investigating what is needed to maintaining current service levels and what would be needed to increase service levels. There was discussion of the importance of communication and coordination with other taxing authorities. The Committee was not charged with exploring financial matters.

Mary Groves, Liaison from the Futures Committee to the Tillamook County Futures Council, will deliver a preliminary report to the Futures Council. Ruth Metz will present the final report at the Futures Council meeting on January 24, 2019 at 10:00 am at TBCC. They will also discuss engaging and seeking input from the broader community.

The Library Futures Committee was enthusiastic and asked to stay involved with the process. Ruth Metz suggested waiting until the final report is complete before addressing how to proceed with Phase 2. Discussion of Phase 2 has been tabled until the January meeting.

Staffing issues:

The board would like to see the unstaffed Library 1 Assistant position filled. They pointed out the library is not in the red. They would like staff reductions addressed in a planful way at budget time. They asked why a significant change to the budget was made unilaterally, instead of following the requirement for a vote of three commissioners. Commissioner Yamamoto said that decisions are made like this because we “don’t like to air our dirty laundry.”

The board understands their mandate to uphold the will of the voters, maintain service levels that voters expect.

Commissioner Yamamoto expressed his objections to filling the position. He brought up that Commissioner Josi had expressed he would like to see the RFID time savings lead to cutting staff in a March 7, 2017 meeting. He said he would like the library to do more with less. He felt the County was a family and since other departments are having to cut staff, the library should also. He did not speak to the issue raised about the will of the voters. He ended by stating “that is just the way it is” and “this is a decision I have made.”

Shiela Zerngast distributed a letter the board wrote concerning this staffing issue. She will forward it to Isabel to distribute. Commissioner Yamamoto invited the board to come and speak during the public comment portion of the BOCC meeting or to contact Isabel and get the topic added to next week’s BOCC agenda.

Commissioner Yamamoto announced that Mary Faith Bell will be our library liaison in January and he will be taking over Commissioner Josi’s timber related duties.

Meeting adjourned by Shiela Zerngast at 1:20

Sincerely and respectfully submitted, Jessica Darling

The next board meeting will be Tuesday January 8, 2019, 12:00pm