

TacomaPublicLibrary

Board of Trustees
Tony Hudson, President
Mark P. Martinez, Vice President
Dale L. Carlisle, Trustee
Robert W. Evans, Trustee
Rebecca Summers, Trustee

1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Tacoma, WA 98402

MINUTES
April 19, 2006

Call To Order

President Tony Hudson called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance

Board Members: President Tony Hudson, Vice President Mark Martinez Trustee Bob Evans, Trustee Rebecca Summers, Trustee Dale Carlisle.

Staff Members: CRO David Domkoski, HR Manager Kathleen Earl, AS/TS Manager Lare Mischo, Development Officer Marilyn Strickland, Confidential Secretary Joyce Huseby.

City of Tacoma Staff Members: Assistant City Attorney Chris Bacha.

Others Present: Library Assistant-AFSCME 120-L Chair Angelo DeFazio, Library Patron Edith Nash.

Approval of Minutes

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Tacoma Public Library that the Board does hereby approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on March 15, 2006.

Trustee Evans moved and Trustee Carlisle seconded. Following a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Consent Items

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Tacoma Public Library that the Board does hereby approve Consent Items #1 through #3 as presented.

Trustee Summers moved and Vice President Martinez seconded.

1. Personnel Status Report from February 15, 2006 to March 15, 2006
2. Report Outlining Sole Source Expenditures
3. Circulation Summary – February 2006

Trustee Carlisle requested clarification on the Personnel Status Report concerning (1) Temporary Page position hiring and terminations within one week, (2) the reclassification from Accounting Technician to Administrative Assistant position effective date of October 2005.

HR Manager Kathleen Earl explained that the Temporary Page positions were high school students on spring break hired to shift shelving materials as part of the construction project at Main Library. The promotion/approval reclassification of Patty Haines' position was approved during the present period but was effective October 2005.

Following a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Payment of Bills

Resolution 06018: Payment of Bills Per Vouchers – Authorization

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Tacoma Public Library that the Board does hereby authorize the payment of bills per vouchers as presented, and further, that the Board approves and ratifies the checks issued by the City of Tacoma for Tacoma Public Library claims, as summarized and documented in materials submitted to the Board.

Trustee Summers moved and Trustee Evans seconded.

Vice President Martinez asked for an explanation of the vendor bill for an email server and software from an Australian firm rather than a United States or local company. Automated Systems/Technical Services Manager Lare Mischo explained that a cost search was made and that the company has worldwide offices.

Following a unanimous vote Resolution 06018 passed.

Audiences to the Public

Edith Nash

2316 South 12th Street, Tacoma

Patron Edith Nash discussed her physical difficulties adapting to the new computer tables, which replaced the typewriter tables, and also stated that the typewriter erase ribbons that were ordered were wrong.

Automated/Technical Services Manager Lare Mischo responded that one typewriter table had been replaced and that another table was awaiting new furnishings and would be delivered on Friday, April 21, 2006. [Note: tables delayed but finally arrived and installed on April 25, 2006.]

Ms. Nash further stated that she is a diabetic and that the wait (sometimes 15 minutes) for the ladies room is too long and asked that more than one female be allowed use of the restroom at one time and to hire female guards so they are free to enter the women's restroom.

President Hudson pointed out the problems the guards are faced with and that the current policy has improved safety concerns for patrons and staff.

Ms. Nash stated she was glad for this but that if she had to wait too long in line there might be an "accident."

Ms. Nash further stated she did not like Reference being on the second floor, as the longer walk is difficult for some persons.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was brought forward.

New Business

Resolution 06019: Donation – Quilt From Tuesday Quilters – Acceptance

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Tacoma Public Library that the Board does hereby graciously accept a handmade alphabet quilt from the Tuesday Quilters for display in the children's area at the Swasey Branch Library, and further that the Board does hereby express their sincere appreciation for the work and effort by the

Tuesday Quilters in designing and creating this quilt specifically for Swasey Branch, and further, that the Board does hereby extend its sincere thanks for this donation.

Trustee Evans moved and Trustee Summers seconded. Following a unanimous vote, Resolution 06019 passed.

[The quilt was on display for viewing by the Board and attendees. It will be on display at the Swasey Branch Library.]

Director's Report

All Staff Meeting – May 11, 2006

In her absence, Director Odencrantz had asked HR Manager Kathleen Earl to report that when the Agenda for the All Staff Meeting is complete the Board will be notified and will receive a copy.

Trustees' Comments

Trustee Summers

Trustee Summers read the following statement:

Fellow Board Members,

Since my short broadcast on my friend Frank Blair's radio show, a couple of things have happened that have caused me great concern.

First, our board president suggested I should resign if I continue to express opinions that are contrary to policies of the board majority. He is entitled to his opinion, just as I am, but if he thinks he can pat me on the head and tell me to be a good girl, he is in for a great deal of disappointment for as long as he continues to serve on this board.

Then Mr. Domkoski, who stated to Mr. Blair that Director Odencrantz never made the assertion that story times would be impacted at branch libraries, called me a liar.

I point to the minutes of the Children's Service Meeting January 2006, where Ms. Odencrantz stated, "Some children's programming such as storytimes may no longer take place at some of the smaller branches." Ms. Odencrantz stated the same to the Board of Trustees.

Where I admire Mr. Domkoski's loyalty to the Director, I believe it is inappropriate for Mr. Domkoski to make statements that call my integrity into question. I would request that Mr. Domkoski refrain from such comments in the future, and I believe he owes me an apology.

I don't know what it is that has emboldened these individuals to engage in such personal attacks lately, but I just want to let it be known that I will not sit back and be a verbal punching bag for anyone, ever.

Trustee Carlisle

Trustee Carlisle requested clarification concerning certain packet items in the Internal Operations section.

(1) The wireless activity report.

ASTS Manager Lare Mischo stated that this is a regular monthly reporting for all library laptop users.

- (2) The emails on transfer/access of Main Library's Reference/DVDs collection (March 23 – 27, 2006).

Mr. Domkoski explained that this inconvenience to patrons was for one day for the DVDs and about four or five days for Reference materials.

- (3) The email on vacation requests in December (December 18-30, 2006).

Ms. Earl explained that the Teamster and AFSCME contracts stipulate that if a holiday falls on a day that we normally close the holiday is observed on the following Monday. This year Christmas Day is on Monday (library closed) and Christmas Eve on Sunday. The discussion is when Christmas Eve will be observed. Ms. Earl stated the library had proposed Saturday, December 23 as a closed day in lieu of Christmas Eve, and the union had responded with Saturday, December 30. New Years Eve is a holiday, and for this reason the problem with closing on December 30. [Discussion occurred so far only with AFSCME.]

Trustee Carlisle referred to Trustee Summers' comments (above). Trustee Carlisle said he had discussed the conflict with President Hudson and Trustee Summers and observed that both have different interpretations. Trustee Carlisle urged everybody to try to get this issue behind us and move on and not to exacerbate the problem. Keep the line of communication open.

Trustee Carlisle stated he was pleased with the President Hudson's decision to have the Board meeting (tonight) because we have a major construction project going and some personnel matters. He stated it is important to keep getting reports on the progress of the Main Library rehabilitation.

Trustee Carlisle also stated he was pleased to read about the Library's web site and the recent "Webby" Award and noted that that there are a lot of positive things happening.

Trustee Evans

Trustee Evans responded to Trustee Summers' comments and stated that although colleagues can disagree there is the need for the Board to maintain a fiction of civility and politeness and that the Library Board needs to have rational arguments.

Trustee Evans mentioned a meeting he attended (PLA Conference, Boston – March 21-25, 2006) on the details of collection weeding, how materials come and go and how intricate that process can be, and how essential it is to the library. He advocated we make the public more aware of processes like this and how complex it is to get materials on the shelf.

Trustee Evans said he also attended a session on the Denver Public Library and although the Denver Public Library has 22 branches and a population of more than 500,000, they still are working on an innovative ethnic service while Tacoma Public Library has already done that. Trustee Evans referred to our Swan Creek facility and stated Denver Public Library was working on the consolidation of services. He said the Denver Public Library also has budget problems and Internet filtering problems. Trustee Evans commented that he came away with the valuable feeling that Tacoma Public Library was dealing with similar problems and that our smaller library could be on the same cutting edge as Denver's.

Trustee Evans also noted the coded shelving system for shifting the Reference collection that Business Manager Robin Clausen had organized.

Vice President Martinez

Trustee Martinez had no comments.

President Hudson

President Hudson responded to Trustee Summers' comments. He stated he had discussed the *Washington State Trustee Guidelines* as best practices with her and wanted to be on record as stating he in no way intended on asking Trustee Summers to leave the Tacoma Public Library Board. President Hudson further stated that the Board establish a coalition to work together in the best interests of the public and the library.

President Hudson noted his continuing interest in partnering and cooperation with health providers and thanked Trustee Summers for sharing a manual on "Community Health Connections" that she brought back from the recent PLA Conference in Boston (March 21-25, 2006). Trustees Hudson noted that other libraries throughout the country are looking at how to partner with the medical community.

President Hudson bestowed *kudos* to staff for their continuing efforts on the Main Library refurbishment project as it is still under budget and on schedule. He restated his praise to staff for doing exceptionally well and noted we would not need to close the Library thanks to the their redesign of the project.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

TONY HUDSON

President
Tacoma Public Library Board of Trustees

SUSAN L. ODENCRANTZ

Library Director and Secretary to the
Tacoma Public Library Board