



**Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, March 15, 2022 – Zoom meeting
3:30 p.m.**

Minutes of Actions and Decisions of the Library Board of Trustees of the Bellingham Public Library as authorized by RCW 27.12.210 and SEC. 7.02 Charter of the City of Bellingham.

Board Members Present: Rick Osen, Jim McCabe, Rebecca Craven and Kristy Van Ness

Library Staff: Rebecca Judd, Annette Bagley, Bethany Hoglund, Jon McConnel, Jennifer Vander Ploeg and Katie Bray

Others Present: Leigh Ann Giles and Jennie Tuckerman, Friends of BPL Co-Presidents

Call to order and introductions: Regular session was called to order at 3:29 p.m. by Chair, Rick Osen.

Approve/modify agenda: Rebecca Craven moved to approve the agenda. Jim McCabe seconded. Motion carried.

Public comment: A letter was submitted about telephone access (included in packet).

Consent agenda: Jim moved to approve the Feb. 15, 2022 Regular meeting minutes and the February 2022 performance & activity measures and financial reports. Kristy seconded. Motion carried.

Kristy noted that new borrowers are back to same number as 2019, which is a great achievement!

Board Chair report:

- Rebecca & Rick had their monthly meeting with the Mayor last Thursday.
- Rick mentioned that the status of in-person board meetings is still unresolved at the City level. The April Board of Trustee meeting will be on Zoom.
- Rebecca mentioned that the City Council will continue discussion of in-person council meetings on April 11. One upcoming decision for the Library board will be offering a hybrid option for board meetings. If not mandated by the state or city, Library staff recommendation is to return to in-person only, without hybrid option. If board does decide to offer hybrid option, new technology will need to be ordered for the Lecture room.

- Rick asked if boards can require masks at meetings. Rebecca will check into this and report back.

Board member reports:

- Jim noted that the most recent Cordata Newsletter included an article referencing a North Bellingham branch library.

City Council liaison report:

- Not present

Friends of BPL report:

- Leigh Ann reported that the Friends will keep their policy for wearing masks inside the library.
- The Friends will be holding a Pop-up sale on April 6 in support of Library Giving Day.
- The Friends are considering additional Pop-Up sales on the second Saturday of the month through the summer.
- Jennie reported that the Friends' board will vote tomorrow to donate all proceeds from the April 6 sale to Library Giving Day.

Library Director report:

- Rebecca reported that on March 1 a library staff member was assaulted while working at the Help Desk. It was an unprovoked, shocking event for everyone at the library. It took several days to identify the individual. He has now been identified and will be charged and trespassed when he is located. Library staff are reviewing and re-assessing safety priorities for the year. Rebecca asked if Library Board and Friends would like to be notified in the future when something like this happens. Consensus was yes, they would all like to be notified.
- Rebecca screen shared a photo of our new Mitsubishi Hybrid vehicle (*See Attachment #1 for photo. All attachments are at the end of the minutes*). Annette described the interior, uses, and wrap opportunity.
- Rebecca screen shared a photo of the flyer for the next Digital Storytelling project in partnership with Connecting Community and Northwest Indian College. She noted that recruitment for the project is being carefully managed by Monica Koller, and the flyer is not intended for broad distribution. (*See Attachment #2*).
- Rebecca screen shared the new Peoples Perspectives Archive landing page. An announcement about the archive will go out in the library's March e-newsletter. (*See Attachment #3*). Three opportunities remain for our community to participate in the archive and share their stories. She thanked Jon for his assistance with the project.
- Rebecca will be touring Library facilities with Council liaison Kristina Martens this Friday.
- Rebecca reported that the Library is helping to organize a training with Ryan Dowd on May 20 for government, public service, business, non-profit, and health-care professionals, and a wider reach if we can. We have an opportunity for a large audience due to the capacity of Mount Baker Theatre. She will send the registration link to all board members and Friends. Ryan Dowd's video trainings were available locally from WCLS in 2020.

Pandemic Response

- Rebecca Judd reported that the mask mandate was lifted for Washington State on Saturday, March 12. Mayor Fleetwood also lifted the mandate for the City on this day.
- The Library intends to continue curbside service as long as there is a population without access to the vaccine.
- The Library will begin to offer class visits, tours, in-person meetings, and outreach over the next weeks and months.
- March 21 is the city-wide date for return to in-person offices.
- March 28 is the Library's reopening date for the Lecture room and SkillShare space, as well as the Fairhaven Fireplace room, Northwest room and Auditorium.
- On April 19, Library staff will ask the Board to consider a reopening timeline for evening hours and Sundays.
- At Rebecca's request, the Board agreed to retire the standing 'Pandemic response' agenda item from Board meetings.

Board of Trustees Replacement

- Rick reported that Vernon Damani Johnson has resigned from the board. Rick thanked him for his service. Rick, Rebecca Craven, and Rebecca Judd will meet tomorrow to start the process of identifying a replacement.
- Rebecca Craven noted that the new board member could serve two full terms after finishing out the few months of the vacant term.
- There was discussion about the process, and the positive response the Library received the last time a position was open.

Facilities Committee

- Rick announced that Godfrey's Associates has been selected as the consultant for the Facilities Master Plan. Three members of the team will be in Bellingham on Monday, March 28 to tour our three facilities. In addition, Rebecca will take them on a driving tour of Bellingham on Sunday, March 27. Godfrey's Associates will return for a second visit later in the spring to interview stakeholders and hold focus groups. We expect to have remote meetings with the consultants twice each month. In addition, they will make monthly written updates on their progress.
- Rebecca Judd added that the contract has been officially signed by the Mayor's Office.
- Rick reported that discussions continue concerning ARPA funds for Climate Resilience municipal building upgrades, including upgrades to the Library's HVAC system. Plans need to be further refined before going to City Council. The Library is also looking at a Capital Improvement grant from the State to possibly augment funding for the project. The stipulation is that the funding has to be matched. Applications are due by May 1. These funds are available every two years.
- Jen Vander Ploeg reported that the freight elevator modernization project is ready to move forward. The contract has been awarded. The bulk of the project will take place August to October 2022.

Fund Raising:

- The proposed planned giving study is on hold while it undergoes Legal review.
- Library Giving Day is coming up on Wednesday, April 6. Annette screen shared the graphics and text, that were included in the packet, for Board review.

New Business:

- Trustee Kristy Van Ness and seven Library employees will attend the upcoming PLA (Public Library Association) conference.
- Kristy noted that several items on the PLA conference schedule relate to Library Boards.

Action items for next meeting: None

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – April 19, 2022 – Zoom meeting – 3:30 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees

Attachments:

- Attachment #1: Mitsubishi Outlander Hybrid vehicle photo
- Attachment #2: Digital Storytelling project in partnership with Connecting Community and Northwest Indian College
- Attachment #3: Peoples' Perspectives: COVID-19 in Whatcom County



SHARE YOUR STORY IN YOUR UNIQUE WAY.

THIS SUMMER YOU ARE INVITED TO CREATE YOUR OWN RESTORATIVE DIGITAL STORY

A Connecting Community,
Northwest Indian College &
Bellingham Public Library Collaboration

PROJECT

Let's gather to capture a moment or experience that you'd like to share.

Six Native community members will connect to discover a story about home, identity, family, work, purpose, belief, or faith. Create your own 2-4 minute video that can be shared for generations!

PURPOSE

First and foremost, creating your digital story is for your own introspective growth. Storytellers have full authorship over if and how their stories are shared. After creating your video, we think you'll be proud to share your story with future generations if you choose to. Stories may be shared in NWIC and Bellingham Public Library archives- growing our collective memory of this area and providing heart-centered local Indigenous narratives.

JOIN US!

- Receive a \$500 stipend to honor your story sharing efforts
- Group meetings will take place the weeks of July 11-22 (Exact dates and times TBD) via Zoom
- Check out local digital story examples [here](#).
- No writing or editing experience needed
- Contact facilitators [Heather Jefferson](#) or [Monica Koller](#) to learn more.



PEOPLES' PERSPECTIVES: COVID-19 IN WHATCOM COUNTY

- [Browse](#)
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Peoples' Perspectives: COVID-19 in Whatcom County is a county-wide, multimedia initiative to capture and archive our experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope you find meaning in the stories and images archived here, and are inspired to share your own experience.

ARCHIVED PROJECTS

Capturing COVID Life: City of Bellingham – Photos

Chuckanut Writers Project: The Chuckanut Writers Conference – Poetry and Creative Nonfiction

The Unrooted Experience: Bellingham Public Library with Connecting Community – Videos

Dear History Project: Bellingham Public Library and Whatcom County Library System – Letters

Whatcom Museum Digital Story Dome Project: Whatcom Museum – Audio

KMRE Coronavirus Stories: KMRE – Audio

Essence of Bellingham: City of Bellingham – Photos

LINKS TO OTHER ARCHIVES

[Telling Our Stories: Western's Response to COVID-19 | MABEL: Multimedia Archives Based Electronic Library | Western Washington University](#)

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

[Dear History - Bellingham Public Library](#) - Letters

[Capturing COVID Life](#) - Photos

[Story Dome - The Whatcom Museum](#) – Audio

WITH APPRECIATION

[All Point Bulletin](#)

[Allied Arts of Whatcom County](#)

[Bellingham Public Library](#)

[Bellingham Roller Betties](#)

[Bellingham Symphony Orchestra](#)

[Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism](#)

[Chuckanut Writers Conference](#)

[KMRE 102.3 FM](#)

[Make.Shift/KZAX 94.9](#)

[Pickford Film Center](#)

[The Northern Light](#)

[Village Books](#)

[Western Washington University](#)

[Whatcom Art Guild](#)

[Whatcom Community College](#)

[Whatcom County Library System](#)

[Whatcom Museum](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Do you have a project to share? We welcome your interest and ideas.

Please contact Rebecca Judd at rejudd@cob.org

