

## **Library Commission Meeting May 6, 2015, 7pm**

### **In Attendance**

Alice Johnstone, Curt Ledford, Cindy Litman, Barbara Bingham, Jane Eidler, Ben Miyasato (Assembly liaison), Robb Farmer (Director)

### **Name Change Discussion**

Guest Nancy Yaw Davis passed out and read comments expressing her preference for keeping the current name, Kettleon Library. In her comments, Nancy noted that the name discussion provides an opportunity for renewed public engagement and shared responsibility for the new library. She expressed amazement that “just thinking about The Name could sharpen appreciation for the whole concept of Library.” Curt Ledford proposed dedicating a special meeting on Wednesday, May 13 to invite public comment and discussion of the proposed name change from Kettleon Memorial Library to Sitka Public Library. Robb will put a notice in the paper.

### **Agenda Additions**

Alice proposed adding a discussion of the article Robb sent to commission members. The discussion was added to New Business.

### **Construction Report**

Robb presented an update on the library expansion construction. Construction is on schedule with no problems. The expansion should be completed by the end of November or beginning of December.

### **Library Schedule**

The City Manager spoke to Robb about the possibility of decreasing the library schedule to 6 days. Savings from closing one day a week from utilities, temporary help, and supplies would likely be \$500/week or \$25,000/year. The library has been polling patrons about preferences for closing on Sunday or Monday. Alice suggested reducing hours rather than cutting days if a reduction in time is necessary and Robb and commission members agreed. Commission members voted unanimously to oppose decreasing the library schedule, referencing the Foraker Report which found that Sitka has among the highest per capita library use in the state with a very small staff. The report commended library staff for its remarkable efficiency.

The Commission will include excerpts from the report in the Assembly packet to remind Assembly members of the Foraker findings.

### **OWL and Homework Help**

The state legislature fully funded OWL. State funding subsidized data use.

### **Budget Update**

Robb gave a budget update. In response to questions about line item increases and decreases compared with previous years, Robb reported that changes in the proposed 2016 budget reflect

the fact that he based the proposed budget on actual previous use. In general, increases and decreases are relatively small.

Robb explained some line items:

Joining the Consortium will result in more shipping of books and possible higher postage costs. However, Sitka is likely to benefit from Consortium membership and access to the system-wide collection.

The library needs some small electronic equipment to facilitate archiving and support the collection (e.g., tape cassettes).

Robb would like to increase staff professional development and training opportunities.

Curt noted that the library has been used as a way to balance the city budget in the past and suggested that the Commission needs to be aware of this and make sure that it does not happen.

### **Programming Updates**

Robb reported on very successful April programs.

The Teen Advisory Board is active and members contribute to the library in a variety of ways. Youth programming is well-attended.

The library is seeing an increase in “drive by” programs—programs organized by community organizations and held at the library as “the heart of the community.”

The annual Spelling Bee will be held May 24.

### **Server Migration Update**

The changeover from user numbers to bar codes has been accomplished. Testing of the new server migration is upcoming.

The changeover to the new server will take place June 17-18. We will not be able to use the catalogue during the migration. The library will be closed to the public on those two days and they will be used as training days for library staff.

The new server will open many resources to Sitka library users. Patrons will be able to use their library cards state-wide at other consortium libraries. Our collection will be available to other consortium members, but we can place limitations on what we lend, e.g., special collections and new books.

The library is poised to implement policy changes in the number of books and movies that may be checked out, which were discussed and approved by the Library Commission.

Robb suggested a program where patrons can volunteer time to offset library fines. He hopes that all fines will be 0 by the time the new library opens so that all patrons will be able to use the new library.

**New Business**

Alice thought the article from Forbes magazine that Robb sent out to the Library Commission was very interesting:

Do We Need Libraries

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/stevedenning/2015/04/28/do-we-need-libraries/>)

Curt suggested that in the future, when Commission members read worthwhile articles about libraries, they share highlights of the articles at Commission meetings

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm