

Sitka Public Library Commission
Minutes for December 2, 2015 Meeting

Members Present: Curt Ledford, Alice Johnstone, Barbara Bingham, Jane Eidler, PJ Ford-Slack

Ex-Officio Parties Present (non-voting): Ben Miyasato, CBS Assembly Liaison; Marilyn Guhl, Library Staff Liaison; Robb Farmer, Library Director

Guests Present: Heather Powell, Sitka Tribe of Alaska; Bill Foster, Library History Committee

Minutes:

- November meeting minutes were approved
- At the November, 2015 meeting, the Commission heard a proposal on the inclusion of Tlingit names on the new library building's signage, and the Commission reacted favorably to such a move and asked the Library Director, Robb Farmer to speak with the City Administrator and those involved with the library expansion about further steps toward that action. Farmer and Bill Foster reported that other City & Borough of Sitka entities had been approached with similar proposals, and the CBS would be looking at a more systematic look at bilingual signage, in order to achieve more uniformity among city buildings and properties.

Farmer read an email from Reid Magdanz, legislative aide for Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, encouraging the Library Commission to make a formal motion to the CBS Assembly supporting bilingual signage in the library.

Heather Powell, a representative from the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, made a statement, using both Tlingit and English, to the Commission detailing the cultural and historical reasons that bilingual signage should be adopted if possible. Alice Johnstone made a motion to the Assembly that the Library Commission formally supports bilingual signage in Sitka Public Library. PJ Ford-Slack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission then discussed several logistical issues involved with adding signage and other measures, such as listening stations, supporting the recognition and use of the Tlingit language in the library. These issues included financial costs; who would provide the translations; the number of signs necessary; and possible timelines for installation.

- Bill Foster, Chair of the Library History Committee, reported that the Sitka Historical Society has offered to assist with efforts to honor both the past history of Sitka's public

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library, and those persons who have made significant contributions toward its success over the years. Included in SHS's assistance would be a photographic history exhibit for the Library, targeted for display at the Grand Opening Event for the newly expanded location, when that event is held sometime in early 2016.

- Farmer reported on the current status of the library expansion construction project. Substantial completion of construction was expected by mid-December, with move preparation by staff already in progress. Regular library operating hours would cease December 20, with the library closing to the general public for most services, until the completion of the move to Sitka Public Library. Anticipated opening date for Sitka Public was February 1, 2016.
- Farmer reported that budget preparation for FY 2017 had commenced.
- Farmer reported on recent and upcoming library programming.
- Farmer and Alice Johnstone reported on the results of the Quilt Raffle conducted by the Friends of Kettleton Memorial Library
- The Commission decided to hold the next meeting, scheduled for January 6, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the new library.