

RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Present: Susan Koch, Vice Chair
Alexa Loo, Alternate Council Liaison (Councillor Loo left at 6:35)
Mark Bostwick
Traci Corr
Diane Cousar
Robin Leung

Greg Buss, Chief Librarian and Secretary to the Board

Regrets: Simon Tang, Chair
Chak Au, Council Liaison
Kash Chahal
Peter Kafka

ACTION

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED: That the agenda be approved as presented.

BOSTWICK/COUSAR.....CARRIED

EDUCATION SESSION

3. (a) An outline of educational session topics was included for information.

(b) Greg introduced Anne Bechard and Cindy Ho, our Digital Services Librarians, who presented their report "The Future of Digital Literacy Programming". The report is an overview of what programming we are planning to deliver in the next few weeks. An update will be presented in the fall and will include the public's reception of our digital literacy programs.

STAFF: Post presentation and video on the Board Blog.

Anne used the American Library Association's definition of digital literacy to describe the programming we are building.

"Digital Literacy is the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, understand, evaluate, create and communicate digital information; an ability that requires both cognitive and technical skills."

Anne summarized this as a wide skillset from basic computer skills to effectively using advanced technology. Public libraries are now seen as the hub, connecting community experts to our members and to each other. Maker spaces in public libraries emphasize creating with technology, using toys and tools from sewing machines to robots and 3D printers. Our role is to empower our community, based on their needs.

Cindy described the STEM education movement, which is working to counteract negative stereotypes and gender biases in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education. Public libraries provide equal learning opportunities in a variety of these areas.

Anne noted that the digital literacy programming plan addresses 5 of the roles established in the Strategic Plan 2014-2018, and anticipates the changes that expected growth in Richmond will bring. We are building relationships with schools as we can provide access to technology that some schools can't.

Cindy noted that she attended the Vancouver Mini Maker Faire and spoke on a panel. Contacts made at the Mini Maker Faire resulted in adding an additional day to our Science Bash scheduled in October. Cindy played a short video of tech tools in action.

Anne and Cindy invited the Board to attend the August 22nd Summer Reading Club wrap up party, which will include a soft launch of the tech tools described in their report.

Cindy and Anne noted that there is a lot of talk about supporting STEM education and variations including STEAM, and STREAM in the professional librarian community. "A" includes art and design skills, while "R" includes reading and communication skills. The Board also noted that it is important that girls be encouraged to aspire to leadership positions and income, and noted that our free events support all backgrounds and skill levels.

ACTION

STAFF: Add Science Bash to Board calendar.

STAFF: Add August 22 to Board calendar

BUSINESS SECTION

4. Approval of Minutes

(a) MOVED: That the minutes of the regular meeting of May 27, 2015 be approved with a name correction in item 11.

CORR/BOSTWICK.....CARRIED

(b) MOVED: That the minutes of the closed meeting of May 27, 2015 be approved as presented.

COUSAR/BOSTWICK.....CARRIED

5. Business Arising

None.

6. Correspondence

(a) A letter dated June 3, 2015 from the Royal Thai Consulate – General regarding a donation of books and an artifact of Thai Classical dance doll was included for information.

COMMUNITY

7. Report from Councillor Au

No report.

8. Report from the Friends of the Library

No report.

9. Customer Comment Forms

A summary of comments was included for information.

BOARD

10. Items for Decision/Discussion

ACTION

(a) Fund Development Workshop:

Greg noted the workshop with Richmond Cares Richmond Gives was successful. A work plan with actions and strategies will be developed in July. Greg just hired a Coordinator, Marketing and Public Relations, which will be a key position in helping us achieve the actions. It is recognized that the library relies on the City for tax revenue for our core services but need to develop other sources of income for additional initiatives.

Councillor Loo noted that the programs the library does are very different from what other cultural services provide. Greg agreed that our programs about digital literacy are new and in a future-oriented format, but grounded in solid public library values.

(b) Report on Library Expenses and Revenues:

The report forwarded to the Finance Committee was included for information. The report will be received at the July 6th Committee meeting. Greg is not expecting that Council will do anything but receive the information at this time. The 2016 budget is being prepared and will be submitted by September, for Council's action in the fall.

INTERLINK

11. InterLINK Report

No report.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY TRUSTEE ASSOCIATION

12. British Columbia Library Trustees Association Report

Susan Koch reported that Nancy Boyce started last week as the new Executive Director.

STAFF OPERATIONS

13. Chief Librarian's Verbal Report

Greg reported that we have submitted our Canada 150 Infrastructure Grant to the City and they have included it in their application. We are waiting to hear back about our plans for improving The Launchpad service.

Greg reported the embarrassing signage issue at Ironwood (which is detailed in Wendy's report) has been used as a learning experience. We are now taking the time to review what is needed for signage system-wide, and in what languages. Greg noted we started the current multilingual signage program about 15 years ago and it is time to review its benefits. This is an excellent opportunity to move forward positively, by paying closer attention to signage and thinking more critically about its purpose.

14. Program Reports

- (a) Lee Anne Smiths' report on Large and Special Event programming was included. The Board asked about Doors Open. Lee Anne noted a significant drop in attendance at the library, which she believes is because there are more venues available each year. Doors Open has grown as a community event.

The Board asked if metrics could be inserted after each event, instead of at the end.

Lee Anne noted that she plans to have many more small programs leading up to the large Ramadan program next year.

ACTION

15. Project Reports

- (a) Kat Lucas' report on Sierra Migration was included.

Kat noted that Sierra went live on June 23rd and the migration has gone smoothly so far. Staff are implementing the acquisitions module next, followed by other additional products. There are still months of work before full implementation is achieved.

- (b) Shaneena Rahman's report on the Steveston Branch Refresh was included for information. This is a proof-of-concept on the Refocussed Traditional Library, concentrating on expanding the physical collection at Steveston providing the books this community wanted the most and is supported by a one-time additional level request granted by Council. Staff have revised the automatic release plan (ARP) with vendors, reduced the non-fiction collection, purchased new material and created new displays. Steveston members may not notice the background changes but should notice the improved selection.

(Councillor Loo left at 6:35)

16. Wendy Jang's report on Ironwood signage was included.

Wendy reported there has been no new information from the community so it appears that the issue has subsided. Greg noted the learning experience has improved staff sensitivity.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

17. Recent media reports from the Vancouver Sun about Richmond's immigration, demographics, mono-lingual signs, housing affordability, crime and poverty were included.
18. A link to the electronic edition of *Feliciter* Vol. 61 No.1 (Spring 2015) "Future Skills, Future Professionals" was recently posted on the Board Blog. Links to future editions will be posted when available.
19. The Board Calendar and Work Plan were provided for information.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled on **Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Vice Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

VICE CHAIR



CHIEF LIBRARIAN

