

LARKSPUR LIBRARY BOARD  
Minutes of Regular Meeting- April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

Roll Call: Present: Chair Jeannette Giacomini, Joan Foley,  
Jeff Gunderson, Michele Melka  
Absent: Noel Shumway  
Staff: Library Director Akel

Chair Giacomini called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Library Director certifies that this Agenda has been posted in accordance with the requirements of the Government Code

Approval of Minutes as Submitted: Special Joint Meeting with Parks & Recreation Commission, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

M/s: Foley/Gunderson and approved 4-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tereza Roze, Madrone, commented on patrons in the library who smell badly or who steal library books and asked why nothing is being done about this.

**BOARDMEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

There were no reports.

**LIBRARY DIRECTORS' ORAL REPORT**

Director Akel stated she would not make an oral report as this was a Special Meeting but would present a report at the next Regular Meeting

**OLD BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Update on the Library Board of Trustees and the Parks and Recreation Commission's joint letter to the City Council following on from the March 7, 2017, meeting.

Chair Giacomini wanted to know if the joint letter had been received by the Council and whether the Board could expect a response from them. Library Director Akel stated that the letter had been given to the City Clerk who in turn passed it on to the City Manager,

Dan Schwarz. She was unsure whether it had gone to the City Council yet or what the outcome would be. Boardmember Foley stated that in light of the uncertainty of the status she thought that the letter should be read to the Council at their next meeting, on April 5<sup>th</sup>, by one of the Trustees. This way the Board would be sure that the Council had all received it. After a discussion it was decided that Chair Giacomini would read the letter during Public Comments at the next council meeting, and she would introduce herself as speaking on behalf of the Board. She encouraged all members of the Board to be present.

M/s Foley/Gunderson: 4/0 vote

## **NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

### 1. Discussion on the status of the LLCC project.

Boardmember Foley asked who attended the City Council meeting of March 15<sup>th</sup> and what was the take-away from the presentation by Dan Schwarz, City Manager, and the Council's comments. Boardmember Melka said she attended and came away with the feeling that the LLCC was not a priority for the Council at this time. It was listed as fourth priority in the "Larkspur 2050" plan and nothing had changed. Of the five Councilors present three were not prepared to commit to the project, at least at this time, but that Mayor Haroff stated he thought a solution could be found to move forward. The Council indicated that further reviews and sub-committees may be forthcoming but what these would be like was not made clear. Chair Giacomini asked about any public comments at the meeting and Boardmember Melka stated that the Library Foundation had indicated their "1001%" support for the new LLCC, and that Grace Hughes had read a statement indicating her opinion that the land should be used for senior housing as it was taking too long to move on the LLCC.

A general discussion then took place.

Boardmember Gunderson asked what was the "2050 Plan?" Nobody on the Board had seen or read this. Director Akel explained that it was a report put out by the Larkspur 2050 Committee who were appointed by the City Council to assess the City's current and long-range needs. She thought the Report came out around 2001. Boardmember Melka asked what the three priorities above the library were. Director Akel said she could not be precise but the Bonair Bridge and other infrastructure projects were often mentioned as top priorities in relation to this report. Boardmember Foley asked why this plan was being brought up again now, if it was this old, and how could the LLCC ever become number one priority since it would always compete with infrastructure projects. It needed to be considered as an asset to the community in its own right and given priority.

Boardmember Melka stated that there needed to be more public awareness about the status of the LLCC project. Members of the community were unaware of the project or

what the issues were with the current library and/or proposed new location. Boardmember Gunderson agreed and said all interested groups needed to consolidate and come up with a plan of action. He felt that there was no direction or leadership coming from the City Council. Although the Spotswood article in the Marin Independent Journal over the weekend may not have been entirely accurate, he said it did bring out the frustrations that many people in the community are feeling about the LLCC.

Chair Giacomini asked if the Board should respond to the letter but the group said, "No". They wanted to hear the Council's response first, if any.

Boardmember Melka asked if the Board had a mandate to move on the project without City Council direction or approval. To what extent did the Board need to seek Council approval? Boardmember Foley said she did not know but it was clear to her that money needed to be raised before the project could go ahead. This should be the first priority and that people in the community needed to understand that the current library and location is totally inadequate. The City Hall building and library are in bad shape and a money pit. It could not sustain any development of increased activities and services. There were ADA issues. Parking was non-existent. It could not fulfill community expectations. The Council did not seem to appreciate that the library had no choice but to move. She felt that the council was ignoring the very real problems the current library has and were pushing the whole issue "under the rug".

Chair Giacomini agreed that the current location has too many ongoing issues to be sustainable. Every week or two something else occurs – leaks, lighting and electrical issues, problems with wiring insulation, and more. Boardmember Gunderson said he felt that the Council showed little effort in resolving this issue and that he felt that another year would go by with more meetings and committees and everything would continue to be put on hold until it all collapsed and went away. The Council was being disingenuous.

Boardmember Foley asked what the Board saw as their options in moving the project forward. They are here to advise the Council and should make their feelings known. Boardmember Melka suggested a new more focused sign be placed on the Rose Lane site. Boardmember Foley suggested signs such as "Love our Library but Can't Stay". Boardmember Melka also said the Council needed to provide leadership. She suggested having a presence in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, having signs about the need for a LLCC and asking for community support. Chair Giacomini said the Board needed to "sell" the library and build inclusiveness.

Boardmember Foley again raised the issue of financing and suggested that a fundraiser be engaged. She suggested that the Board request the Council to approve some seed- money be made available.

Action Items:

- (1) Write a response to Spotswood letter after reviewing City Council response
- (2) Work on getting seed-money for a fund-raiser, preferably from the City
- (3) Work on plan of action to raise awareness of the importance to the community in building the LLCC.

M/S: Gunderson / Melka; 4/0 vote

**STATUS REPORTS:**

None

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

After discussion Chair Giacomini stated the following items would be on the next agenda: Update on the LLCC, following developments at the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Council Meeting; discussion of Dick Spotswood letter in the Marin Independent Journal and the Council's response; consideration of the Library's FY 2017-2018 budget; recognition of Joan Foley's contribution to the Board; consideration of attending the 4<sup>th</sup> July parade to promote and engage volunteers for the library and LLCC.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Chair Giacomini stated the next meeting would be held on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Giacomini adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Akel

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Larkspur Library.

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Janice Akel, Library Director