CITY OF YACHATS

CITY COUNCIL – LIBRARY COMMISSION JOINT MEETING

July 5, 2017

Minutes

Mayor Gerald Stanley called the July, 2017 City Council-Library Commission joint meeting to order at 9:30 am in Room 1 of the Yachats Commons. Council members present: Mayor Gerald Stanley, Barbara Frye, Jim Tooke, Max Glenn, Greg Scott. Library Commission members present: David Dunsdon, Marion Godfrey, Marv Wigle, Nikki Carlson. Staff present: City Manager Joan Davies. Audience: 15.

I. Joint Meeting of Council and Library Commission

Mayor Stanley invited the Library Commission to present their position on moving to the 501 Building to the Council. Commissioner Wigle noted their presentation is a proposal and not a recommendation. Commissioner Carlson reviewed the history of the Library's work to explore moving to the 501 Building, including meetings with and polling of volunteers and taking public input. Carlson highlighted that the current facility is not earthquake compliant and the 501 provides better interaction with Commons activities, more storage space, more opportunity for expansion of programs and collections, more meeting rooms, and space for separating the computer room.

Carlson elaborated on the responsibilities expected of the City and noted the Library would provide $50,000 from the Hall Bequest for the transition. The Library Commission asked for exclusive use of the building.

Councilor Glenn stated he was very much in favor of the Library moving to the 501 Building. Glenn expressed concern that the proposal took the position that the Library was a separate entity and that there was suggestion of a MOU and potential contract with the Library. Glenn posited there would be substantial grant monies available to defray planning, renovation, and transition costs. He noted an architect is required because of the size of the building. Commission Godfrey reported she posted a request for recommendation of architects on the State library bulletin board. Godfrey noted architects generally charge 5% of the total contract cost.

Councilor Frye asked for clarification on the proposal versus recommendation distinction. Wigle replied the proposal was based on what the Commission's understanding of the City's request for them to present, noting they wanted more information on costs and details of commitments. Frye asserted the proposal feels uncomfortably formal and asked if the Commission realized the Council was supportive of the Library. Carlson noted their response was based, in part, on their feeling they were one of many competitors for the space. Frye believed the Council had never considered having the Library share the space, and she stated she was feeling a lack of trust from the Commission.

Councilor Tooke did not have any issues with the framing of the current proposal.

Councilor Scott argued that intent is important in Council decisions and should be recorded in the minutes. He hoped this meeting would help clarify intentions of all parties and was supportive of the Library moving. Commissioner Dunsdon stated they understand the Council does not have the ability to grant the Library use of the 501 in perpetuity. Dunsdon reaffirmed that the Commissioners are very much in favor of moving, but they have not formally voted on a move. He noted the Friends of the Library are willing to provide some funding for assessments.

Mayor Stanley did not want delay a decision on moving the Library because of issues around how the monies are handled and whether the Library could have guarantees. Frye asked how much detail was needed before the Commission could decide. Frye understood the concerns around the use of the Hall Bequest in terms of who decides how that money is spent.

Glenn stated he did not want to spend money or work further without having a firm recommendation from the Commission. Frye argued they should be able to move forward with more trust. Dunsdon argued the Commission did not want to move forward if the Council were to eventually say no. Dunsdon proposed having two Commissioners and two Councilors meet to work out details.

Council and Commissioners both indicated a need for additional information before making commitments. Mayor Stanley agreed having two people from the Council and the Commission meet to work out conflicts was a good idea. Glenn did not see any disagreement with the proposal at this time and believed the Council is in favor of having the Library move.

Manager Davies summarized the issues she heard the Council and Commission making and used role-play to get each body for yes or no answers to the following questions:

1. Library Commission to Council: We want sole use of the facility. Are you going to put another group in the building with us? Council indicated no.
2. Library Commission to Council: We do not want you making decisions about how we run our Library. Are you going to interfere with the operation of our Library? Council indicated no.
3. Council to Library Commission: We want to put a kiosk, banners, art or some kind of information in the library as informational displays for the public to learn about history and the area. Are you going to allow that? Commissioners indicated they do not want advertising, which Manager Davies indicated was not included in her options. Commission indicated they were ok with informational displays, kiosks and art.
4. Library Commission to Council: We believe the $150,000 bequest money belongs to us and we get to make the decisions on how that money is spent. Do you agree? Council disagreed.
5. Council to Library Commission: We have the $150,000 bequest money and are bound to use the money in the best interest of the Library. Is that OK? Commission responded that was ok.
6. Library Commission to Council: We agree you are in control of the money, but we would really like to install something tangible that has Lester Hall's name on it, such as a reading room. Would that be ok? Council indicated that is fine.

Manager Davies concluded they two bodies were in agreement that the Library should move to the 501 Building and the Council would not interfere with their operation.

Councilors discussed their positions on accepting the Library's proposal. Glenn stipulated he would not be able to create a time-table at this time, but was agreeable to doing so after they have had input from designers and/or architects. Frye wanted changes in the document before she could accept it. Scott did not want an artificial constraint of $50,000 on the spending of the Hall Bequest. Wigle stated he would personally be against moving if the City were to decide to spent the entire $150,000 on the move. The Council emphatically asserted the $150,000 bequest would not be spent on paying down the mortgage on the 501 Building.

Sue May argued the Hall Bequest should be viewed as contributing to the Library as long as it used for the Library, regardless if that use were was for remodeling.

All Councilors agreed they want the Library to move to the 501 Building. Dunsdon indicated he would put the vote for moving the Library on the Commission's July 11, 2017 agenda. Manager Davies agreed to draft a document stipulating the consensus of the current discussion.

II. Announcements

Mayor Stanley announced this week is the Yachats Music Festival.

With no further discussion on the 501 Building topic, Mayor Stanley adjourned the joint Library Commission-City Council meeting at 10:43 am.

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GERALD F. STANLEY, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Joan Davies, City Manager Date