

Liberty Lake Municipal Library Board of Trustees Report to City Council
October 4, 2016

Introduction

My name is Carol Johns and I am representing the Board of Trustees, Liberty Lake Municipal Library. The other board members include: Linda Dockrey

Pat Lutzenberger

Tricia Morgan

Lu Embrey

We meet at the Library on the first Thursday of the month at 10 am and welcome the public to attend. We are advised by Pamela Mogen (Librarian) and Katy Allen.

Our report to the City Council is generally presented in the spring but was delayed this year due to a wish to know the outcome of the August Vote on the Town Square Project. While there is some disappointment due to failure of the bond measure to pass with the necessary percentage of votes we hope that the library will continue to have a positive impact on the community in its current location. We would like to focus our report on how that might best be accomplished.

One of the projects of the Board of Trustees during the past year and a half has been 1) the development of a Strategic Plan and 2) identification of standards that would guide the development of a new library location in the future.

We believe, due to the rapid growth of the Liberty Lake community, we must consider how the libraries resources might best meet the needs of our expanding number of patrons.

- Historically the public library has been a free source of educational materials to all who wish to access its information
- Technological change and digitalization has changed the way we access information and as a result has changed our view of libraries, library services, and information access and use.
- Due to the increased emphasis on Technology the library must:
 1. Provide space for individuals to learn more about how to access technology
 2. Be a place to access tangible and digital collections
 3. Provide a community center for encouraging communication and collaboration

The annual report of facts and figures was presented to the City Council by Pamela Mogen last spring to reflect programs and utilization of services provided by the library. However, one issue that the City Council may not be aware of is the fact that the state of Washington does not have a set of standards to guide library services. Based on a desire to have such standards the Board of Trustees has spent considerable time reviewing specific standards of other states. These state standards clearly identify for libraries, based on the area's population, the necessary space allocation, staffing requirements, salaries, benefits, emergency procedures and protocols for the training of staff and volunteers. One area of these standards that we felt was lacking, specific to our library, is the need for a larger area of flexible space. We would like the city council members to be aware that we have, based on other states standards, developed a set of standards that we feel would be helpful to take into consideration in the

planning of the future needs of the library. We would be happy to share these standards with all of the council or a subcommittee that would have interest in this topic for discussion.

In closing the board would like to identify **10 Reasons why our library is the most important place in town:**

10. The Library is an important partner in child development
9. The library teaches teens important life skills
8. The library offers opportunities for remote access, making it possible for those who can't get to the library to still access the libraries educational offerings
7. The library provides information, education, and program opportunities, free for all people regardless of economic status
6. The library provides access to the arts/history for all ages through book clubs and special exhibits
5. Libraries help citizens learn new skills – through programs and materials
4. While going to the library looking for information patrons frequently find others with similar interests, i.e. story time, teen book clubs, attending events
3. The library provides space for special programs and educational endeavors
2. The library provides space that is accessible for those with disabilities
1. The library is the hub of a vibrant neighborhood

The board would like to thank the council for their past and future support of the goals of the Library!