CITY OF OREGON CITY
LIBRARY BOARD
MINUTES

Work Session
Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM

This meeting will be held online via Zoom; please contact dbutcher@orcity.org for the meeting link.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair David Goldberg called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Cynthia Andrews, Heidi Blackwell, Nick Dierckman, David Goldberg, Larry Osborne, and Elizabeth Zinter were present via Zoom.

Staff Present: Greg Williams, Library Director, and Denise Butcher, Library Operations Manager, were present via Zoom.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1.Review and discuss proposed revisions to the Library's Strategic Plan.

David Goldberg shared that he appreciated the thought, care and time that went into the existing 2019-2024 document and thought the existing content would be usable for the updated one. David expressed concerns about the wordiness and scope of the document and voiced support for making the mission statement the vision statement, retaining the values section, and excising the sections on vision and guiding principles. David voiced concerns with the inclusion of matters for which the Board did not have responsibility and advocated for the creation of a smaller subcommittee to rewrite the document. David thought the Board should set objectives for each strategic foci, and thought the library functions fulfilled by the City, particularly around finance, HR related topics, and procedures, not be included in the plan.

Cynthia Andrews expressed agreement with David's assessment, particularly with the intermixing of strategic and operational planning and overall document structure. Cynthia advocated for a restructure in formatting.

Nick Dierckman stated that the structure of the document had been based on existing documents in use. Nick acknowledged that the mix of strategy and tactics were intentionally included with a view towards communicating with the public.

Nick shared a belief that the Board had a fiduciary responsibility to oversee the taxpayer paid funding.

Larry Osborne acknowledged that the strategic plan development's focus was more on setting shared goals than developing strategy.

Cynthia noted that the document did a good job of including the community in the conversation and was successful in the context of its creation and that the situation was different and necessitated changes.

Greg Williams voiced support for separating the operational and strategic pieces in the current document.

Larry said he did a line by line read through and was largely in favor of the language changes.

Elizabeth Zinter voiced support for the changes on the basis of clarity and brevity and appreciated the success measures.

Nick Dierckman clarified that he was not opposed to the changes, and felt strongly that the Board did have a fiduciary duty of oversight.

David clarified that he agreed that the Board had a fiduciary responsibility for responsible budgeting and reporting any questionable use of funds

Greg stated that he agreed with Nick and wanted the Library Board to have full knowledge and transparency concerning the Library's finances.

David proposed a small committee to redraft the strategic plan and share the draft for feedback.

Cynthia Andrews stated that she would be willing to participate if no one else wished to do it.

Heidi Blackwell said it was important to have input from stakeholders before finalizing the plan and gauging the success in meeting goals. Heidi volunteered to make the connections to get feedback.

David proposed having a strategic plan committee meeting and have a draft for review by the next Board meeting.

Cynthia spoke to the changing external conditions that might dictate a different, more dynamic approach to Board function. Cynthia asked if the Library had a strategic plan prior to the version that was being revised.

Larry said that there had been one when he joined the Board.

Denise Butcher said there was one prior and it focused on securing a new building.

Larry asked if there had been a consultant involved. Denise said that an employee from the State Library, Darci Hanning, had assisted with the writing of the plan.

Nick said that it was important that the new document convey to the public what work was being done.

Greg asked what the Board's comfort level was for in person meetings.

Heidi voiced a preference to move toward in person.

David stated a preference for continuing to meet remotely and cited masking requirements and full Intensive Care Units.

Elizabeth Zinter voiced a preference for meeting remotely.

Nick said he was appreciative of the dynamic nature of the group and was interested in options for hybrid meetings.

David requested that no final decision be made at this time.

Greg asked if this should be revisited every meeting. There was general assent.

Heidi encouraged the group to participate in Oregon City 2040.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair David Goldberg adjourned the meeting at 6:10pm.