Columbia Library District
Minutes, Meeting of June 12, 2008

Board members present were Tom Richards, President; Susan Breyfogle; Rosie Gerding; Marie Glaze; David McDonald; MaryEllen Sievert; and David Webber. Lynn Hostetler and Jim Loveless were absent.

Also present were Melissa Carr, Director; and Elinor Barrett, Connie Bush, Kris Farris, Jim Smith, and Lauren Williams, DBRL staff.

Call to Order

Richards called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Virginia Young Room of the Columbia Public Library.

Approval of Minutes

Sievert moved, Glaze seconded, approval of the minutes from April 25, 2008. The motion passed.

Communications

There were no communications.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Financial Reports of the Columbia Library District Capital Project

Smith called the board’s attention to Other Revenue presented on page six of the April 2008 report. Included in this line item is $743 which represents the monies remaining after calling and paying off all the 1999 general obligation bonds. In response to a question, Smith said that the library is close to closing out the fund, and with the June expenditures from this fund there will be approximately $7,000 remaining.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee – Richards read the slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee for 2008-2009:

   Tom Richards – President
   Rosie Gerding – Vice President
   David McDonald – Warrant Officer/Secretary

There were no additional nominations from the floor. The motion passed.
Unfinished Business – Parking Lot Update

Carr congratulated and thanked Barrett and the other staff that assisted patrons and provided excellent customer service while the ramp was closed. Carr explained that the library rented two golf carts to shuttle patrons to ramps in the garage or the secret garden or to the north entrance. Barrett said the library received overwhelmingly positive comments from patrons and that interacting with the public in the lot gave employees an opportunity to answer patron questions one-on-one and to really explain how the changes would increase pedestrians’ safety. Barrett said that the crosswalk and plaza areas are completed and the plantings in the new green space by the lot entrance are in. She said that she is working on new signage for the east end of the lot.

Barrett updated the board on the proposed banners for the parking lots saying that the library’s attorney and the City of Columbia both recommended creating a new ordinance rather than asking the city to amend the existing sign ordinance. She asked the board for its help in asking for support from the community. She said that staff will distribute letters explaining the library’s request for a new ordinance to the library’s neighbors. In response to a question, Barrett explained that if allowing libraries to hang banners was added to the existing ordinance, the library would be affected by any changes to that ordinance. The attorney therefore recommended drafting a separate ordinance for libraries. Carr added that the ordinance will be worded so that if additional library facilities are built within the Columbia city limits any time in the future, the ordinance will also apply to those libraries. Barrett said that the attorney also recommended that the DBRL Board join the CLD Board in this effort, and the board discussed making such a recommendation to the DBRL Board.

ACTION: Gerding moved, Sievert seconded, to recommend that the DBRL Board of Trustees join the Columbia Library District in its request to have the Columbia City Council approve a new sign ordinance that allows banners for public libraries. The motion passed.

Barrett reported on two change orders staff investigated regarding the lot, including installing snow melt under the crosswalk and plaza. She said the estimated cost of the snow melt was $27,000, so staff is abandoning that idea. She clarified that there is already snow melt at the end of the ramp. The other cost proposal was for an irrigation system for the new east bed at a cost of $5,000. Barrett reported that Russ Niermeyer suggested a lower-cost option of installing a water hydrant and a soaker hose so that staff can do the watering. Staff will move forward with this option at an approximate cost of $1,200. Barrett said that some of the remaining $7,000 in the Capital Project Fund could be spent on signage related to the lot changes and new drop-off/pick up areas.

In response to a question, Barrett estimated that it will take at least three months for the banner ordinance to be approved.
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New Business

Carr reminded the board that the DBRL meeting for July would take place on the 26th following the retreat, and she suggested that the Columbia board cancel its regularly scheduled July 10th meeting.

ACTION: McDonald moved, Sievert seconded, to cancel its regularly scheduled July 10th meeting. The motion passed.

Miscellaneous

In response to a question, Carr confirmed that staff was keeping record of visits to the CPL on Sundays since the facility is now open on summer Sundays.

Barrett reported that the YouZeum had fielded several requests to open its preschool area from people who stated that the children’s area at the library has become very crowded.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

McDonald moved, Glaze seconded, to adjourn. The motion passed and Richards adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Lauren Williams, Executive Assistant.

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Board Secretary