



CITY OF KEIZER
LIBRARY WORK GROUP MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Dan Kohler, Councilor
Laura Reid, Councilor
Shaney Starr, Councilor

Staff:

Adam Brown, City Manager
Shannon Johnson, City Attorney
Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder

Call to Order: Staff called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Election of Chair/Vice Chair: Dan Kohler and Laura Reid were elected by unanimous consent to serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

Appearance of Interested Citizens:

Daisy Hickman, Keizer citizen, stated that she was not concerned about public representation because elected officials can be removed at any election.

John Hunter, CCRLS; *Bill Leach*, President of the Keizer Community Library Board of Directors; and *B.J. Toewe*, Keizer Community Library, shared information regarding the advantages of becoming part of the CCRLS and having a public library. It was noted that the Keizer library would remain a 501c3 non-profit and that there are four similar libraries in Oregon. Information was shared regarding documents from the 2007 Library Task Force, advantages of being part of the CCRLS, taxes, staffing needs and costs, long-term operations, comparable city libraries and anticipated cost per person/family. Mr. Hunter urged that the library consider being slightly more ambitious and propose a larger budget so that they would not find themselves in need early on.

It was noted that with the library being a 501c3 non-profit, it would officially be run by community library staff and not by the City but that grants might be applied for in the City name and funds funneled to the library. Ms. Reid added that the library works with the other tenants at the Cultural Center to successfully secure grants and that improving the relationship with the City would give them more grant options.

It was noted that if in the future the library budget were increased, the City's contribution would also increase. Discussion followed regarding library needs and funding required, and the need to demonstrate that a funding source is in place after the ARPA funds are gone.

Ms. Reid noted that as elected officials Councilors could choose to put the fee on the utility bill without a vote and that many of the people who would benefit from the library (non-citizens and children) would not have the ability to weigh in on whether or not they wanted the fee and the increased services available at a Public Library.

Framework for Review of the Public Library Question: Chair Kohler reviewed the options presented in Mr. Johnson's staff report. Following discussion, work group members indicated a preference for the fee on the utility bill option (C). Mr. Johnson shared information regarding the timeline necessary to get this on the November 2022 ballot. Work group members and library advocates discussed the need for a Political Action Committee with work group members indicating that they were anxious to assist. Mr. Hunter noted that establishment of this library is a statewide priority so his office would help. Digital advertising was suggested. Ms. Toewe noted that she felt a vote would be risky and that if it did not pass, the library would only be able to function through May of 2023. Mr. Leach indicated that campaigning would put a burden on staff but that they were willing to try if necessary.

Recommendation of Library Work Group to City Council: Dan Kohler moved that the Work Group recommend Council establish a fee to be referred to the voters in the November 2022 General Election. Shaney Starr seconded. Motion passed as follows: Kohler and Starr in favor and Reid opposed.

Determination of Next Meetings: To be decided as needed.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.