Minutes

Newberg Public Library Board
June 20, 1991

Present

Board Members	Kate Copenhaver Dorothy Rogers Pat Landis George Whitmer
Staff	Doreen Turpen Duane Cole
Other	Bonnie Arbogast

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Kate Copenhaver.

The consent calendar was reviewed. Kate Copenhaver asked that the minutes reflect that Allyn Brown's interest in working on the development of a Library Foundation was contingent upon it being endowment based.

MOTION: Rogers/Landis to accept the consent calendar with the addition to the minutes to reflect the condition expressed by Allyn Brown. Motion carried

ACTION ITEMS:

Long range planning process: There was no action to take. It was noted that the Library Director and Board Chair, Kate Copenhaver would meet prior to the next meeting to further develop a planning process.

Library as City facility: City Manager Duane Cole spoke to the Board about an incident that occurred earlier in the month that affected Court activities that are held at the library. He noted that the policies governing use of the meeting rooms would be reviewed and that there was discussion at the Council level that the City Manager's office should possibly become the coordinating office for scheduling of the meeting room. Discussion also covered whether the library was to have been primarily a library facility or a more broadly based City facility.

Dorothy Rogers indicated that she was deeply bothered about the shift in focus for the use of the library building. She expressed concern that the building was supported by the community for a facility that was to be used for library activities and a community meeting room and that the use of the facility for civic meetings and Court was a betrayal of the public's support for the expansion. She suggested that the wording for the bond measure be reviewed.

Other Board members expressed concern about what they defined as an encroachment of City activities into the meeting room, noting that there has been a progression from occasional Council meetings to multiple types of civic functions and they expressed frustration that the demand for City based meetings and uses continues to grow.

The City Manager expressed that the City has no other place for Council, Planning Commission, and Court and that the need to use the library for those functions would continue for some time.

Board members questioned the City's determination that there were no other locations suitable for these activities. They also responded that if the City desired to make an effective statement for the need for a City Hall and appropriate facilities, they should not try to cover that need by using the library meeting rooms. They noted that on the surface the library facility looks adequate, but that it is not adequate for those purposes.

The Library Director noted her concern that through this dialogue there was a confusing message being sent through such phrases as "library vs City" use of the facility. She said that library staff try to work with the public to educate them that the library is a part of the City and that library programs are developed to meet the library's mission as a department of the City. She noted that problems arise not solely because of civic uses of the facility, but because they impact library staff's ability to conduct and schedule the programs and services that they are charged to do within their specific role as a City department.

Additional discussion was held on the issue, with Board members and Library Friends representative, Bonnie Arbogast, providing their perspectives on the history of the library expansion and their understandings of the purpose of that expansion.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT: The monthly report was distributed at the meeting. The Library Director called attention to the update on the library fees, noting that the Council adopted a slightly higher fee than that recommended by the Board at their last meeting.

INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE: Kate Copenhaver provided an update on the creation of a library foundation. She noted that Allyn Brown is working on the forms and that he and she developed a list of initial people to contact for a meeting to be held some time in July.

NEXT MEETING: Discussion was held on whether to hold a July meeting. It was determined that the Board Chair and the Library Director should work on the development of the planning process and that scheduling of a July meeting was contingent on the progress that they made.

ADJOURNMENT: There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Doreen Turpen

Doreen Turpen, Library Director