

**LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR SESSION
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
May 12, 2021, 6:00pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Elfers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He announced that all board members were present.

ATTENDANCE:

In Council Chambers: Board Chair Richard Elfers, Board Member Sandy Kanaga, City Staff Liaison Jessica Rose.

Via Microsoft Teams videoconferencing: Board Members Ann Anderson, John Knowlton, and Chris Beinke, KCLS Staff Representative Carla Hopkins, KCLS Staff Steven Bailey and Melissa Munn, Enumclaw Library Manager Chris Mezek.

2. MOTION TO APPROVE 4/7/21 MINUTES:

Knowlton moved to approve the 4/7/21 minutes. Beinke seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

3. LAFROMBOISE FUNDS:

Bailey gave a recap on the Lafromboise Endowment funds that were received in 2020. It was extended through 2021 to be used for the programs that it was originally approved for. As to date, only \$63 has been spent from the \$1,900 that was given. They are still in a holding pattern due to the library only providing basic services currently. They are unsure if they will be able to complete the projects as originally plan before the year is over and will return the remaining amount back to the Lafromboise Endowment Fund. New proposals are being prepared for 2022. Due to limited hours and staff, an emergency amendment for the library budget is not needed. Funding media materials for an additional project would be difficult for the library staff to do at this time.

Kanaga moved to hold off, but keep on the agenda, any further movement on the Lafromboise funds. Knowlton seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

4. CENSUS 2020:

Hopkins had informed the Board the Census 2020 will not be available until September. However, Hopkins discussed her past experiences in other areas on how they reached households in incorporated areas. Performing surveys, research, and representatives going door-to-door, helped local libraries determine what materials were needed for their communities, such as books in other languages, and stories that pertains to their lifestyles. Other options that could be used are books by mail for those with disabilities and the Washington Talking Brail Society for those who are visually impaired. Library subscriptions may also be used to determine household needs for library services.

Elfers will check with the school district on additional information, such as different languages, that may aid on what services and materials are needed. Kanaga and Anderson will reach out to the Senior Center and local optometrists to see if there is a need for books on tapes.

5. LIBRARY REOPENING:

Mezek announced that the library is now open 6 hours a day. The operating hours are now Tuesday and Wednesday from 1:00pm – 4:00pm and 5:00pm – 8:00pm, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10:00am – 1:00pm and 2:00pm – 5:00pm. They are offering in-library services, such as computer, printer, and fax usage. The express hold pick up is available during the closing hour. Cleaning, sanitation, staff breaks, and lunches also take place during the closed hour.

6. SECURITY CONCERNS:

Elfers stated that a potential Councilmember candidate had voiced concerns over the library security and the homeless. Munn explained that KCLS have codes of conduct that all patrons must follow. There are no rules against sleeping in the library and if code of conduct is being met (not disturbing other patrons) then the homeless can stay. KCLS feels that they need to be able to provide services to all patrons. Munn clarified that they need to be confined to one spot, not have their personal items spread out, and not taking up an entire couch or bench. Munn also explained that Mezek has a great relationship with the Enumclaw Police Department and has had very few incidents in the past years.

Mezek confirmed that they have had very few incidents from the homeless. They feel that by building trust and providing hope has led to the homeless giving respect to the library staff. Commander Ryan from the EPD has been very open and responsive. All the incidents that they have experienced have not always been from the homeless, but others, such as rowdy teens. The EPD has always handled incidents very efficiently and quietly. Mezek stated some changes have been made to the library to provide better security. These included brighter lights around the building, bushes cleared out, no trespassing signs, locked restroom doors in an open position, and the adult fiction shelving brought down for better visibility. When asked, Mezek stated they have had no issues with the concrete circle. They have cut the bushes down and it is currently being used as the express hold pick up area. She also mentioned that they have more landscaping ideas they are working on.

Hopkins suggested to do a tour with the concerned citizen at the library along with Mezek, Elfers, and Commander Ryan to show him the changes that have been made and answer any questions he may have. The board consensus to move forward with the tour and Elfers will schedule the tour.

Hopkins also stated that at the Auburn Library, they had found that 98% of the homeless visiting their facilities were veterans. They were able to set up a program where the VA would come to the library to provide aid. Kanaga had also stated that in the past they had approached the local VFW to see if any additional aid was needed for their veterans and at the time was told it was not. She would be interested to see if that has changed over the years.

7. OTHERS

Elfers advised that the group should try to focus on the goals for the Lafromboise funds for the 2021 year.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Knowlton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Beinke Seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:53pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2 at 6:00pm.