

Salt Lake County Library Services Board of Directors Meeting
Kearns Library Construction Site
October 28, 2019
Approved December 16, 2019

Attending: Kristin Covili, Chair, Nancy Thorne, Vice Chair, Sandra Osborn, James Jackson III, Chelsea Lindbeck, Frenchell Hampton, Cindy Mecklenburg

Excused: Hollie Pettersson

Others: Jim Cooper, Jeff Davis, Architectural Nexus, Carol Ormond, Susanne Jones, Jennifer Fay, Christa Warren, Pamela Park, Leslie Webster, Matt McLain, Melanie Mitchell, Holly Adams, Architectural Nexus, Skip Condie, Matt Monson, Brooklyn Ottens, Valerie Price, Salt Lake County Public Arts Program Director

Kristin Covili called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Welcome – *Jim Cooper, Library Director*

Kearns Library Building Update

- Matt McLain, Associate Director Community Engagement, was the most recent Kearns Library manager.
- R & O is the contractor for the building project. We are 50% through the contract and about 25 % through the construction timeline.
- The parking lot has already been paved.
- The site is connected to nearby schools and there is good access to the library from parking and 5400 S.
- At 35,000 square feet this will be the largest public library space in our system. Much of it will be community meeting space.
- The collection will grow some but not much. This building is designed around the public and we will fit the collection in.
- The previous library got lots of visitors and kids, and hosted a Kids Café.
- The new library will have some quiet spaces for adults.

Action Item – Approve Minutes from September 23 Board Meeting

James Jackson III made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 23 Board meeting. Nancy Thorne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments – Jim Cooper introduced Valerie Price, County Public Arts Program Director, and members of the Architectural Nexus team. There were no public comments from them.

Correspondence – Jim Cooper reported that a library patron used a Smith Library computer to make online threats against women and references to end of days, and that he displayed mental health issues. The patron returned to the library the following day. We will trespass him but will have the police do it. We are taking his threats seriously.

They are not library focused but they are threatening in language toward women in general. We are continuing to monitor the situation and the police are aware.

OLD BUSINESS

2020 Budget – *Leslie Webster, Associate Director Finance & Operations*

- We are expending the year-end budget.
- Capital projects are moving ahead.
- Our 2020 operating budget includes new FTEs for Kearns and Daybreak Libraries. All of these requests were included in the mayor's budget. The mayor is proposing a 2.75% merit increase. A proposed 8.75% tax increase is for the General Fund only. It doesn't include the library because our fund isn't deemed to be in critical need. We will propose our budget to the County Council tomorrow. In December we will report our final budget to the Board.
- Building projects have been deferred. We can dip into our fund reserves if there is a catastrophic event at a library that prevents the facility from opening.

Building Updates – *Jim Cooper, Library Director*

Daybreak – We still haven't officially broken ground. Because of a delay in permitting the contractor requested repricing the project. This put them in a third place position instead of low bid. Jim felt we needed to cancel the contract for convenience. We will have to pay for the money already expended and a small fine. We will start the bid process over. After prequalifying contractors, we will go out for bids in mid-January 2020 and expect to break ground March 2020. Architectural Nexus is the architect for this project. They've revised drawings based on the results of permitting requirements. The opening date has been pushed to 2021.

Granite – We have sent out a prequalification request that is due October 29. We will meet to review and down-select qualified contractors. The Granite timeline is similar to Daybreak. Construction will begin February or March 2020.

Kearns

One percent of construction projects are dedicated to public art. An open call for national artists was put out for the Kearns project and Matt Monson, a local artist with deep ties to the Kearns community, was selected.

Monson described concepts he is developing for Kearns Library art. Inside, three monumental murals in different areas will depict the past, present and future. The central mural will represent the past and illustrate the history of Kearns and its people. The present will be represented in the children's area and will be visible to traffic driving by. The future will be depicted in the teen area and will convey Chief Joseph's philosophy that "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors: we borrow it from our children."

A fourth community mural may be in the style of a vintage postcard that conveys the community's identity.

Outside, Monson is designing gates based on historic Camp Kearns gates. He will create four smaller versions of the gates facing four coordinates of the compass that will be positioned with the solstice and the equinox.

Monson is putting his team together. He wants to engage the community, tell a story, and help the people of Kearns see themselves in the art he creates. “Kearns is home, family, and the art should be like a warm hug.”

Board members were encouraged to send suggestions, comments, or ideas to Monson through Valerie Price, Salt Lake County Public Arts Program Director.

Macmillan Update – *Jim Cooper, Library Director*

Beginning November 1 Macmillan will be embargoing ebooks to libraries. Every library system, no matter the size, will be allowed to purchase only one new release ebook.

Library push-back hasn’t been successful. Some libraries won’t purchase from Macmillan but we aren’t going down that path.

There is a three-pronged approach to the embargo:

- Some libraries will boycott Macmillan.
- Some libraries will litigate.
- Some libraries will undertake a public relations campaign.

We are looking at how we will manage holds. We don’t buy a lot of Macmillan ebooks (6%). We are looking at ways to help our patrons understand the general challenges we face around availability of all ematerials.

NEW BUSINESS

Action Item – Policy Approval – *Carol Ormond, Office Manager*

Room Reservation Policy - Melanie Mitchell, Senior Attorney, Civil Division, Salt Lake County expressed concerns that the wording of section 4.0 is in risk of violating First Amendment rights because restrictions such as handing out business cards, getting lists of names, etc. are not limited to commercial activities.

She would feel more comfortable if we left it that commercial use of the room is not allowed. If staff observe that a room is being used for commercial purposes, further use of rooms would not be allowed. We are already saying rooms can’t be used for commercial purposes, but the restrictions in 4.2.1 apply to non-commercial users too. Melanie suggested taking out 4.2.1 because it applies to everything.

This policy doesn’t intend to address privacy issues.

The Board doesn’t want to open up meeting rooms to commercial activities.

Sandra Osborn asked what happens to someone who uses the library meeting spaces for tutoring. How does that get handled? It seems that the library is discouraging business transactions during, before and after activities and that gets complicated.

What about authors and author events where books are sold? These are library-sponsored events and we partner with organizations so that books can be sold.

Cindy Mecklenburg wanted to leave the policy as loose as possible so that library management has the discretion to handle commercial situations and make the decisions.

Jim Cooper recommended taking the policy back, digesting the input, working with Melanie and bringing back another draft.

Melanie pointed out that the wording throughout the policy needs to be made consistent.

James Jackson III asked if there is a way to define what is commercial and what we are trying to steer away from. Is there language as to where we draw the line?

Jim Cooper said the overarching thing is that we don't want someone representing that this is endorsed by the County Library. We aren't giving our seal of approval and people shouldn't feel they can rely on the information they are being given. If there is a way to have the right disclaimers, maybe that is the way to get around the issue.

Melanie clarified that we don't want library meeting rooms to be used for heavy sales pitches. As a library we are going to need to allow a soft informational piece and people need to be able to give out business cards if a patron requests it. We don't want people trying to sell a particular product.

Jim Cooper asked how we can embrace the business community in a better way.

STAFF REPORTS

Statistical Report – *Jim Cooper, Library Director*

Jim Cooper referred Board members to the handouts for their review.

Human Resources Update – *Pamela Park, Human Resources Manager*

We will be recruiting for a new Marketing Manager and we have the register for a Fiscal Manager, Leslie Webster's former position.

The meeting adjourned for a tour of the Kearns Library construction site.