

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staff Conference

Early in 2010, the Library Board approved a tentative date for the 2011 RPL Staff Conference. The date has been changed but it is time to confirm it for the purposes of booking the facility. The originally proposed date was October 21st but it has changed to October 28th. The change is due primarily to a request by the conference facility and since the request came with an appealing discount and did not significantly inconvenience operations, it seemed reasonable to change the conference date. This item requires a Board motion to allow the closure of the library on that day.

Mascot

Included in the Board package is the artist drawing, specifications, and vendor background for the Library's proposed new mascot. The new mascot would replace Wigglesworth, the Library's aging bookworm mascot. The new mascot is a part of the branding and promotion work being undertaken by Tony Playter and the Library's Marketing & Communications unit. The Library has also decommissioned the old float, turned it back into a trailer for use by the Physical Plant unit, and discontinued the rental space used to house it.

2011 Budget

The 2011 budget is included in the Board package for final approval. Unless otherwise directed, the Library will continue its past practice of having the tabling of the budget by City Council be its official public launch. Once approved by the Board, the proposed mill rate is submitted to City Council, followed shortly thereafter by the Library's full budget report. Once received by the City Clerk, the Library will be given a date for in-person presentation of the budget to City Council.

As noted to Board members present at last week's meeting, Library Administration reviewed the budget once again and has been able to further reduce the requested increase to 3.36%. From previous discussions on budget, Board members will recognize that this increases risk in some areas but balances the wishes of Board members from the previous discussion. Also included in the Board package is a draft of the Library's budget report for City Council. Questions and comments are welcome and can be integrated until about February 23rd. If all goes according to plan, the budget and budget report will be submitted to City Council on February 25th.

Lottery 2012

It is time to invite proposals for the 2012 Library Home Lottery home which requires setting a budget for the home. This year's budget was \$575,000 and, with furniture, places the house's prize value at \$600,000.

Signing Authorities

At last month's AGM, the banking resolution to change Board signing authorities was not necessary because the Chair and Deputy Chair did not change. From the administration perspective, signing authorities do need to change, adding Lisa Weisensel (the Library's new Manager, Finance). Once the Library has a permanent Head, Finance & Administration, I will come back to the Board to add that person to the signing authority list. A copy of the standard resolution is enclosed in the package and, as usual, requires two signatures to conduct business.