



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: 7/10/2017
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Menlo Park Library
800 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

A. Call to Order

Chair Lemons called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Bramlett, Bugna (arrived at 6:40), Leep, Lemons, Race.

Absent: Badgely, Cebrian

Staff: Susan Holmer, Director of Library Services
Nick Szegda, Assistant Director of Library Services

C. Public Comment

Pam Jones, Menlo Park resident, thanked the Commission for taking the time to listen to Mr. Henry's presentation at the last meeting.

Juanita Croft, Menlo Park resident, spoke in support of a new library at the Onetta Harris Senior Center. She supports a location that has access for families.

Jay Dunlap, Menlo Park resident, supports the Onetta Harris location because it is safe for residents to walk or bike there.

Terri Epidendio, Menlo Park resident, would like a place for neighborhood kids to go to after school. The main library is not always accessible for Belle Haven neighborhood residents.

D. Regular Business

- D1. Continue drafting 2017-2019 Commission Work plan. Prepare for Commission update to Council.

Director Holmer wanted to share some news with the Commission that will impact their work plan formation. A philanthropic donor has come forward with a gift that would support the construction of a new main library on the civic center campus. The Council will be considering the offer at their June 18th meeting.

Commissioner Bugna asked if the schematic design that is the next step of the Space Needs Study had been funded for fiscal year 17/18. (Yes).

Commissioner Bramlett said that there should not be items included in the work plan that Commissioners did not want to work on.

Director Holmer said that the process for the main library replacement began with the Operational Review and continued with the Strategic Plan and then the Space Needs Study. In the current budget there are funds to continue the Space Needs Study and Funds for a library needs assessment for the Belle Haven neighborhood. The process for a branch library replacement is at an earlier stage than the process for the main library replacement.

Assistant Director Szegda said that the philanthropic gift, if accepted, would accelerate the timeline for a new main library facility.

Commissioner Race asked if the funding for the needs assessment for the Belle Haven neighborhood had been requested or approved (approved).

Commissioner Leep said that she was happy to support the main library construction, but she wanted to continue to advocate for a new branch library. She wants to focus on what the Belle Haven community wants.

Commissioner Race stated that it was not an “either/or” situation – the Commission could support the main library and continue to work toward a new facility in the Belle Haven neighborhood.

Commissioner Bramlett said that there was marked disparity between the two sides of Menlo Park. Was there any attempt made to educate the donor about this disparity? (Staff did not know).

Commissioner Bugna was optimistic about library improvements and urged the Commission to educate the City Council about library service issues in Belle Haven.

Chair Lemons wanted to relay the input the Commission has received from Belle Haven neighborhood residents to the Council.

Commissioner Bramlett said that the Belle Haven community can’t wait any longer for a new facility, and expressed concern that the donation for main library improvements might delay improvements in Belle Haven.

Commissioners continued to refine their 2017-2019 work plan, and will continue working on refining the work plan at their regular meeting on June 17.

E. Adjournment

Chair Lemons adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.