

**CITY OF BOULDER
BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING
MINUTES**

Name of Board/ Commission: Library Commission	
Date of Meeting: December 6, 2017 at the Main Boulder Public Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave.	
Contact information preparing summary: Maureen Malone, 303-441-3106	
Commission members present: Tim O'Shea, Juana Gomez, Joel Koenig	
Commission members absent: Alicia Gibb, Joni Teter	
Library staff present: David Farnan, Director of Library & Arts Jennifer Phares, Deputy Library Director Maureen Malone, Administrative Specialist II Aimee Schumm, eServices Manager Zack Jacobson-Weaver, Creative Technologist	
Members of the public present: None	
Type of Meeting: Regular	
Agenda Item 1: Call to order and approval of agenda	[6:00 p.m., 0:00:00 Audio min.]
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. O'Shea announced that the annual letter to City Council would be moved up to Agenda Item 6a since it relates to the discussion of Agenda Item 5. Koenig moved to approve the agenda as amended, and Gomez seconded. All in favor.	
Agenda Item 2: Public comment	[6:01 p.m., 0:01:35 Audio min.]
None	
Agenda Item 3: Consent agenda	[6:01 p.m., 0:01:43 Audio min.]
Item 3A, Approval of October 16, 2017 Study Session Minutes Koenig moved to approve the minutes, and Gomez seconded. Vote 3-0, unanimous.	
Item 3B, Approval of November 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes Koenig moved to approve the minutes, and Gomez seconded. Vote 3-0, unanimous.	
Agenda Item 4: Update from BLDG 61 staff on current programs – Zack Jacobson-Weaver, creative technologist	[6:04 p.m., 0:04:35 Audio min.]
See handouts for presentation.	
Commission discussion, questions, and comments included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koenig wondered whether there are opportunities for maker activities at the branches. Jacobson-Weaver replied that there are limitations to what staff can do at the branches in terms of safety and infrastructure, but they have created mobile kits for branch maker programs. • O'Shea congratulated the BLDG 61 team on their impressive work. He asked Jacobson-Weaver why the work is important to him. Jacobson-Weaver replied that he has a bone to pick with higher education; he would like to give people the opportunities he has had to learn the things he has learned and feel as empowered as he has felt without having to sign their life away. He stated that he has not found an environment that is delivering the important content to the right people as effectively as BLDG 61 staff. • O'Shea asked how Jacobson-Weaver would respond to people who ask why a makerspace in the library, and not somewhere else in the community. Jacobson-Weaver responded that it is important to have other makerspaces in the community to augment what BLDG 61 does; BLDG 61 is an educational space and staff encourages patrons to check out other makerspaces in town when they have outgrown BLDG 61. The programming that BLDG 61 offers is a 21st century literacy; the reason for having a library free and open to the public was to disseminate knowledge, which is precisely what staff is doing. • Gomez wondered how Jacobson-Weaver envisions an expansion of BLDG 61. Jacobson-Weaver replied that the community has expressed a desire for more open access hours to work on their interests and space to house more 	

long-term projects. In terms of what the space needs, the answer needs to come from the patrons up and at the same time from city leadership down to reflect both what the people want and the goals of the city.

- Koenig wondered what is on BLDG 61's more immediate wish list. Jacobson-Weaver responded that staff is using the space they have very effectively. However, if they had more space to attract and support longer-term, more sophisticated projects, that would increase the sophistication of creativity and innovation that people are exposed to in the space. Farnan stated that BLDG 61 needs people and space, and reminded commission that Jacobson-Weaver is in a temporary fixed-term position through the end of 2018. The library created the creative technologist positions out of vacancies for other positions, and Schumm, the eServices manager, has had to assume basic IT support tasks to allow the creative technologists to deal with the volume of interest in BLDG 61. These are not sustainable solutions; the library is unable to hire quality people and does not have the space to expand.
- O'Shea encouraged staff to share the stories that are coming out of BLDG 61, and cultivate voices by getting feedback from the businesses developed in the space and asking patrons that are regular program attendees to write letters to the editor and to City Council to express how BLDG 61 staff is making a difference in their lives.
- O'Shea suggested finding a way to connect business developers and patent creators coming out of BLDG 61 to the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), the Boulder Chamber of Commerce, and local incubators in an effort to promote the library's role in creating access to this the kind of 21st century literacy, possibility and involvement.

Agenda Item 5: Master Plan project update

[7:01 p.m., 1:01:14 Audio min.]

- a. Debrief of Nov. 28 City Council Study Session (summary included on p. 8-9 of [packet](#))
- Koenig commented that council did not seem to have any negative thoughts about the idea of forming a library district. Farnan stated that all of the negative thoughts were around the idea of increasing property taxes; council member Brockett asked city manager Brautigam if she would be willing to consider reducing the mill rate that the city currently collects to support the general fund, and she said yes.
 - Gomez recalled that council member Morzel expressed concern about the city giving up control of its assets (buildings). Farnan commented that the issue of control may be one of the biggest hurdles for council when considering options for the library. Library staff would not make recommendations as to the distribution of assets; that is a decision that would have to be worked out with lawyers and City Council.
 - O'Shea observed that the library was being drawn into a conversation of greater complexity with the discussion around the fairness of serving an audience outside the city limits with library services and the notion of annexation; the library could either be used as a tool for annexation or as a reason not to extend services to places outside city limits.
 - O'Shea suggested that instead of doing the research upfront, staff should outline in the master plan the steps necessary to pursue the different funding options. Farnan stated that it will not be complicated for staff to put together the numbers for a dedicated sales tax or reduced mill rate.
 - Koenig commented that the regional authority option seems highly unlikely and wondered whether staff should spend the time fleshing it out. Farnan agreed that it is unlikely; there are only two potential partners: Gunbarrel General Improvement District (unincorporated Gunbarrel) and Boulder County. Farnan has a meeting next week with a planner that deals with governmental relations for the county to discuss the necessary steps.
 - Farnan stated that it will be important to go back to council with a recommendation on which option to pursue; council may say no, in which case the library will be back to starting from scratch each budget year to carry out the goals laid out in the master plan. Commission agreed that they should make a recommendation in the master plan. O'Shea commented that commission has some work to do in the coming months in terms of outreach to council members.
 - Farnan commented that council member Yates' recommendation for a funding shift within the allocation of the general fund is no different than the current situation, and represents a substantial risk because it puts the library back in the same position it's in now.
 - For the January packet, O'Shea asked staff to provide some bullet points with the considerations/risks and rewards for each of the funding options to help commission make an informed recommendation for the master plan.
 - Staff will invite Jacqueline Murphy, an attorney with the state library, to the January or February commission meeting for a discussion on the process for forming a library district.
 - Farnan stressed that one of the main objectives of the study session with council, the end of year letter to council, and the meetings between commissioners and individual council members is to get library funding on council's workplan for the next two years. O'Shea suggested that commission members also write to council as individuals prior to the City Council retreat in January.

<p>Agenda Item 6: Library Commission Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Matters from the Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Annual letter to City Council of the Library Commission’s 2018 priorities (see p. 13-14 of packet) Gomez moved to accept the letter with the edits discussed tonight, and Koenig seconded. All in favor. O’Shea will send polished version to Malone to submit to the City Clerk’s office. b. Update annual meeting agenda calendar – check in Postponed until January meeting c. Boulder Library Foundation update d. City project representative update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. EcoDistricts e. Responses to patron emails from the Library Commission 	<p>[7:50 p.m., 1:50:15 Audio min.]</p>
<p>Agenda Item 7: Library and Arts Director’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. NoBo Corner Library won the City Value Award for Customer Service b. Update on 2018 JLF 	<p>[8:10 p.m., 2:10:32 Audio min.]</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8: Adjournment [8:15 p.m., 2:15:33 Audio min.]</p> <p>There being no further business to come before the commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.</p>	
<p>Date, time, and location of next meeting: The next Library Commission meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 3, 2018, in the Canyon Meeting Room at the Main Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder, CO 80302.</p>	

Commissioner Gibb approved these minutes on January 22, 2018; and Maureen Malone attested to it.

An audio recording of the full meeting for which these minutes are a summary, is available on the Library Commission web page at <http://boulderlibrary.org/about/commission.html>