**Name of Board/Commission:** Library Commission  
**Date of Meeting:** December 4, 2019 at the Main Boulder Public Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave.  
**Contact information preparing summary:** Celia Seaton, 303-441-3106  
**Commission members present:** Tim O’Shea, Joel Koenig, Jane Sykes Wilson, Steven Frost (left at 7:23 PM), Juana Gomez  
**Commission members not present:** none  
**Library staff present:** David Farnan, Director of Library & Arts  
Jennifer Phares, Deputy Library Director  
Celia Seaton, Administrative Specialist  
**City staff present:** None  
**Members of the public present:** Joni Teter, Jennifer Livovich, Darren O’Connor, Mike Homner, Thomas Williams, Diane Foster, Evan Ravitz, and Sammie Lawrence IV  
**Type of Meeting:** Regular  
**Agenda Item 1:** Reminder: Commissioners please log monthly volunteer hours Count Me In Boulder [0:00:24 Audio min.]  
Commission logged their service.  
**Agenda Item 2:** Approval of agenda [0:01:15 Audio min.]  
The meeting was called to order and O’Shea asked if there were any changes to the agenda. As Gomez noted no update for Alpine Balsam, item 6cii was struck. There was a nod of approval from the commission for this agenda.  
**Agenda Item 3:** Public comment [0:02:14 Audio min.]  
O’Connor spoke first, providing commission with a document outlining an appeal to provide professional services to address the needs of homeless and other at-risk populations (see handouts). Boulder attorney who has worked as an electrical engineer at the university, O’Connor has developed interest in homeless policy. Referenced Denver Public Library’s use of peer navigators. Spoke to library’s role as a “wonderful space for people to come regardless of economic background or current status” and resulting function as a “de facto day shelter.” Advocated getting social workers and/or peer navigators in the Boulder Public Library. Maze of social services confusing to even a stable, sheltered individual. Recognized funding as an issue; with Colorado as one of the least-funded for mental health and addiction care nationwide, there are no inpatient facilities in Boulder. A person shouldn’t have to get arrested before help for a better outcome.  
Next, Livovich spoke to relevant statistics in the area, referencing her experience of past chronic homelessness. She highlighted high expense incurred by people experiencing homelessness. Acquiring 51 charges in a 28-month span, stays in jail and detox amounted to a $60,000 cost not including ER and shelter visits; though this specifically references Livovich’s situation, it is not unique.  
Homner spoke to past experience with homelessness as well as serving on the board of BOHO (Boulder Outreach for Homeless Overflow) – lived experience and understanding from the provider’s side. Housed for past seven years. Peer navigators assist homeless through trauma – they provide necessary antidote to the punitive and scolding attention that these populations generally experience (“don’t come in here,” “don’t fall asleep.”) Implored commission to understand “this would make a huge difference.”  
Williams came to support this mission. Participated in a sleep-out alongside O’Connor as a show of solidarity. Hard to sleep. “Difficult trap” which leads to people falling asleep in the library.  
Lawrence spoke next, expressing his appreciation for the opportunity. Emphasized access to care workers as an “opportunity for people to garner support in ways that typical average human beings take for granted.” Referencing his brain injury, he stressed that without the support he was “lucky” to encounter, he would himself be on the streets. Spoke to fortune of “right place, right time” to “catch the next steps to get into civility.” Hopes the library assists further by providing access to care workers that are so badly needed.
Ravitz experienced homelessness in the much smaller community of 1980’s Boulder. “You have to start where people are, and people are at the library.”

O’Shea inquired about funding for the referenced social work positions in other locations. Livovich: Denver Public Library’s peer navigation partners in funding with Denver Department of Housing and Human Services (assisted by Department of Justice grant). Also noted funding through SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). Peer navigation being used more and more in homeless shelters, eating disorder clinics, and libraries. Williams suggested drawing from public safety, security budget.

Gomez and O’Shea expressed appreciation – helpful to have “illustrations of peoples’ lives” for better understanding. In response to Sykes Wilson, O’Shea voiced his support of further dialogue on this topic potentially at the March Retreat.

Teter spoke next on behalf of Boulder Library Champions on the topic of future library funding and self-determination. City Council will be setting their work plan during their retreat and Teter emphasized importance of ensuring that library funding and preparation for potential library district formation be adopted as council priority. Teter provided draft documents for council reception (see handouts). She wondered if commission is interested in endorsing these recommendations in the IGA. In response to Koenig’s query, Teter noted mid-December as good timing to send this memo to council.

Koenig commended Teter for the effort in compiling this “great information.” Gomez moved to insert an item into the agenda to discuss the IGA recommendations and commission’s endorsement. Koenig seconded. O’Shea amended this motion to include dialogue about endorsement of the Library Champion’s districting conversations with council. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously; O’Shea amended the agenda, introducing this as item 5 with resultant shuffling of items.

**Agenda Item 4: Consent agenda**

a. Approval of October 2019 Meeting Minutes: O’Shea asked for adjustments. Being none, O’Shea moved to approve these minutes, Gomez seconded. The quorum was unanimous in approval.

b. November 2019 Meeting Minutes: O’Shea asked for adjustments. Being none, Koenig moved to approve these minutes; O’Shea seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 5: Discussion of commission endorsement of Teter’s IGA recommendations**

Teter spoke to historical community-driven funding for library space. In 1904, volunteer library board corresponded with Andrew Carnegie after no success mobilizing funding with the City Council at that time. In 1906, in order to secure grant from Carnegie, City Council passed ordinance to dedicate 1/3 of a mill of property tax which was later rolled into the charter adoption of 1918. O’Shea: helpful recognition that mill levy has existed historically.

Gomez recommended an executive summary placed “up front.” O’Shea and Frost agreed.

Koenig appreciated the data indicating how the community has historically funded the library – thus a “compelling case” that the space really belongs to the community.

O’Shea concerned council reception of this memorandum may depend on how “well-versed” each member may be on this issue. From her own engagement, Teter senses adequate foundation; with proper framing of the timeline’s immediacy, she feels it will “land pretty well” with the new council members and provides a “path forward.”

Gomez suggested moving the date for a council resolution up in the year to April or May; Teter agreed.

Farman: Intention of City Manager’s Office to deliver enough information during council’s annual retreat and in a March study session to be able to go forward (by proclamation or ballot initiative) or not by April 2020. The March study session would presumably contain the same information reviewed by council in November 2018.

Discussion of the transferring of facilities vs. land, trusteeship.

With Phares continuing to assist in editing, Teter hopes to have letter finalized by December 10th.

Gomez wondered about a non-lawyer reading the document and clarified that the document being considered not the IGA this is the information that would assist in the construction of the IGA. She suggested clarifying the negotiable nature of the terms. Koenig: unnecessary, already inherent in the document.
Beyond niceties of presentation and editing, Teter hopes for commission endorsement of the memo’s critical points re: facilities, backlog, employees, library fund, etc. Koenig “comfortable with the document” after modest edits. Frost aligned with Koenig in endorsement. Koenig volunteered to assist with editing.

O’Shea considered delivery of the new north Boulder branch and the intrinsic attachment to this new project. Teter: argument same as around every other branch. Teter questioned the library project’s budget paying for expensive city improvements like the 13th to 14th Street connection construction. “Why are so many community goods being put on the library?” Farnan: in a funding shortfall, the plaza and other non-essential outdoor improvements would be excised. However, Planning Board acceptance depends on the street connection and bike path improvements.

O’Shea wondered if there are other situations where a district formation occurred when a new branch was in the process of being built. Farnan noted the library in Fort Collins as mid-construction when districted.

O’Shea moved to endorse and support this memorandum. Koenig seconded and all were in favor; O’Shea recognized Frost’s absence.

**Agenda Item 6: Discuss priorities for annual letter to City Council**

Commission discussed final modifications for this letter; O’Shea captured the changes. Staff reminded of the December 15th deadline for letter submission.

**Agenda Item 7: Library Commission Update**

a. Interesting upcoming dates from ALA website (see packet.)

b. Items from Commission (verbal)
   i. Ongoing outreach efforts (Gomez/O’Shea)
      - Outreach to council members and candidates – annual letter and forthcoming memorandum, welcome opportunity for further engagement.
   ii. Discussion of City budget / Library budget 2020 and beyond

c. Updates from commissioners representing the Commission in other venues (verbal)
   i. Boulder Library Foundation (BLF) update (Sykes Wilson/Koenig) – Farnan: 1.5 million dollar goal of funding; commitment end of April/May 2020. Farnan noted around $37,000 (including match) garnered during Giving Tuesday.

   d. Update on emails and phone calls to Library Commission – (see packet.) O’Shea referenced the query re: alcohol imbibed during a community event in the library (specifically, an HOA wishing to stage their event at Meadows). O’Shea appreciated clarification of city’s position, which assisted in resolution that this is “not suggested, but doable with a special event permit.” Gomez relayed her discussion with a resident who suggested a land swap with the federal government’s Forest Service for the site of the new north Boulder library.

**Agenda Item 8: Library and Arts Director’s Report**

a. Main Library Restroom Renovation project: Defective custom-made doors currently delay completion of facilities. Local distributor will provide temporary fix with installation during second week of December. Non-defective permanent doors expected later in the month.


**Agenda Item 9: Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned.

**Date, time, and location of next meeting:**
The next Library Commission meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, in the Canyon Meeting Room at the Main Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder, CO 80302.

Commissioner O’Shea approved these minutes on February 5, 2020; and Celia Seaton attested to it.