

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

Name of Board/ Commission: Library Commission
Date of Meeting: February 3, 2021
Contact information preparing summary: Celia Seaton
Commission members present: Juana Gómez, Joel Koenig, Jane Sykes Wilson, Scott Steinbrecher
Commission members not present: Steven Frost
<p>Library staff present: David Farnan, Director of Library & Arts Jennifer Phares, Deputy Library Director Celia Seaton, Administrative Specialist</p> <p>City staff present: None</p> <p>Members of the public present: Benita Duran, Joni Teter</p>
Type of Meeting: Regular Remote
Agenda Item 1: Review of Online Meeting Guidelines [0:00:02 Audio min.]
Agenda Item 2: Reminder: Commissioners please log monthly volunteer hours Count Me In Boulder [0:00:30 Audio min.] The Commission logged their service.
Agenda Item 3: Approval of agenda [0:01:58 Audio min.] The meeting was called to order and Gómez asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There was a nod of approval from the commission for this agenda.
Agenda Item 4: Public comment [0:01:13 Audio min.] Duran appreciates the opportunity to observe the meeting; she is an applicant for the 2021 Library Commission.
Agenda Item 5: Consent agenda [0:02:50 Audio min.] a. Approval of January 2021 Meeting Minutes: Koenig moved to approve these minutes, Sykes Wilson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
<p>Agenda Item 6: Update from Library Champions related to recommendation for a draft Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between a library district, Boulder County, and the City of Boulder [0:04:02 Audio min.] Joni Teter spoke on behalf of Boulder’s Library Champions (see handouts.) Teter and Gómez recently held a “very productive meeting” with Council Member Bob Yates in apprehension of the February 23rd Study Session. Council Member Yates discussed the idea of a library funded out of the city budget with a dedicated tax. He suggested review of comparable IGAs and proposed a commissioner be present at the Study Session to answer questions and provide background information. He plans to suggest that City Council form a committee including commissioners or champions to assist City Council’s investigation into the district. These suggestions indicate “active thinking” about the district from a council member and were appreciated by Gómez.</p> <p>Teter deemed it a “most productive discussion” with Council Member Yates. He recommended presenting “high-level example IGA” with “bigger picture ideas,” not necessarily to advocate, but rather to provide a framework. This would be bolstered by FAQ’s and other documents.</p> <p>In response to Steinbrecher’s inquiry, Teter clarified that the trustees for the district would be composed of a subcommittee of the legislative bodies, 2 from council and 2 from county commissioners (who would then appoint the rest). After the first board, the method would be determined by the IGA. He wondered about the difficulty of changing language in Boulder’s Charter and Revised Code. Farnan noted that this very routine procedure of charter amendments by ballot vote typically cycle through every other year.</p> <p>4 mill has been adjusted to 3.85 to account for updated modeling. Analysis still needed to reflect considerations of the Gallagher amendment. The adjustment for reassessed property values in 2021 has not yet been determined. Staff response at the Study Session will likely come from City Attorney David Gehr who will present options for the disposition of assets. A sample IGA could present a recommendation from the options.</p>

Farnan: we always go into Study Sessions hoping to narrow the scope, but often come out of it with many more options to research.

Steinbrecher wondered what a “magic number” to fund sustainable library service might look like. Farnan does not have a ready figure, rather tends to consider cost per use. Most state formulas consider a cost per resident. Basing the number on the Baum study, 16.3 million was the most accurate number as of one year ago (leading to the 3.85 mill levy figure). See the pie chart in the [handouts](#) indicating the costs to run the library. Three to 4 million in operating costs would be an added factor.

Gómez’s instinct is to streamline the upcoming Study Session presentation as much as possible; Farnan concurred along with the other commissioners. Further documentation can be offered to interested council members. Commission agreed on inclusion of the table with historical comparisons 2000-2018.

Commission expressed appreciation to Teter for her work putting together these “thoughtful materials.” Gómez relayed Frost’s response to the materials as he was absent from the meeting: he considers them “in line” with the advocacy he has heard from the Library Champions during his time as a commissioner. He volunteered to assist with social media outreach and graphics needed for future campaign.

Agenda Item 7: Library Commission Update

[1:05:22 Audio min.]

- a. Items from Commission
 - i. Items from commission:
 - Adoption of Example IGA and Library District FAQ's. Sykes Wilson made a motion for commission to send these two documents along to City Council; Koenig seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Gómez will compose an email to City Council.
 - Assignment of February outreach to Friend, Joseph, Swetlik, Brockett, Wallach
 - Update on Commission applicants
 - ii. Update on library district discussions with City Council – Koenig and Gómez met with Council Member Mary Young who seemed less approving of the district formation than was apparent in the past, suggesting that there are enough funds in the city budget. The idea of forming a district by resolution seemed “autocratic” in her view. Gómez: our representative government is all about taking action.
- b. Updates from commissioners representing the Commission in other venues (verbal)
 - i. Boulder Library Foundation (BLF) update (Sykes Wilson/Koenig) – Sykes Wilson reported budget discussion during the last meeting, with approval planned by March. BLF also reviewed One Book One Boulder’s impact study which was in commission’s January [packet](#).
 - ii. Library Champions – joint efforts
- c. Update on emails and phone calls to Library Commission

Agenda Item 8: Library and Arts Director’s Report

[1:29:48 Audio min.]

- a. North Boulder Branch Library update – project went out to bid. Eight pre-selected vendors will undergo review in the next month.
- b. Update on current library services – Boulder County has moved its COVID-19 dial to “level orange,” allowing for limited computing on the Main Library’s second floor. Staff plan expanded levels of service for the community by April if public health guidelines agree.
- c. Update on Library Commission candidate applications and interviews – so far, the City Clerk’s Office reports receiving six applications.
- d. Report on outcome of city council retreat – library district came up in relation to budget discussions.

Agenda Item 9: Adjournment

[1:33:45 Audio min.]

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 replaced by the annual retreat planned for Wednesday, March 13, 2021, through a virtual setting.

Commissioner Sykes Wilson approved these minutes on April 7, 2021; and Celia Seaton attested to it.