Members Present: Chair Jeff Breeden, Vice Chair Marita Rhinehart, Ann Langevin, Rachel Hunt, and Erica Tietjen.

Also Present: Director Kimberly Diehm, Assistant Director and Head of Cataloging and Processing Department Anne Karr, Bond Counsel Kendra Follett, and Deanna Duffy.

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:34 pm by Chair Jeff Breeden.

I. Pledge of Allegiance Led by Ann Langevin.

II. Citizen Participation: Items raised under this portion of the Agenda cannot be acted upon until provisions of Nevada’s Open Meeting Law have been completed. Therefore, any action on such items must be considered at a later meeting. Public comment is generally limited to 5 minutes per person.

Deanna Duffy explained she has agreed to write the ballot “for” arguments and would like to support the library, however, she disagreed with the amount being asked for and the approach. She advocated for a phase approach done with smaller amounts of money. She argued this would be more palatable to people and could give the youth space in the basement to fill their need and give the adult area upstairs additional room. She reasoned if the City’s plan goes through, it might satisfy the community’s meeting room need and then the library may find small study spaces are more suitable for the community requirements.

III. Consent Agenda: Matters considered routine by the Board of Trustees and which may be enacted in one motion. Any item, however, may be discussed separately per Board member request. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

Marita Rhinehart moved that the consent agenda, minutes of the regular January 16th, 2019 meeting of the Board of Trustees, and bills paid of 41,357.35 from the previous month be accepted. Erica Tietjen seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Reports:

Kim had an update on the globe light. ABM gave an evaluation and a $728 estimate quote. More information is needed and is being sought in order to understand the bid. The light has been out since 2009.

Marita commented on vending machines mentioned in a manager report. She wanted to know if the library was really thinking about vending machines for books. It was an idea presented at conference and it piqued staff interest as a possible solution to Senior Center accessibility complaints. More investigation would be required before it would be considered for application.
Ann expressed interest in the database CreativeBugs which was recently added. With Chilton’s, Ancestry.com, this new database, and the VR offerings, she was excited the library has something for every age group.

Marita offered Kudos to Kim for being part of the One-Stop leadership team. If Financial Literacy programs are added at the Boulder City Library, Marita offered to help. Inquiries were also made about the Facility Manager’s new baby.

There was group discussion about the use of the volunteer police. They are making rounds at the library and have had an effective presence on the property.

Jeff mentioned he appreciated receiving room use stats. He questioned a report comment about possibly penalizing groups for cancellations. He was critical of that concept. On the subject of being penalized, Marita asked about fines and their effect on computer privileges.

V. Report/Discussion/Action Possible: The agenda items in this section are for discussion and for possible action. The items may be heard in any order; two or more items may be combined for consideration; an item may be removed from the agenda; or discussion related to an item may be delayed at any time.

1. Consideration of a Resolution calling a bond election to be held on Tuesday June 11, 2019, for the submission of the question of issuing the County’s general obligation bonds on behalf of the District; And providing other details in connection therewith and the effective date thereof - Action Possible, Jeff Breeden

   Jeff introduced Kendra Follett who explained the last step required of the Board was to pass the resolution. By adopting the resolution to be placed on the ballot, the City Clerk could then be notified. She said they had already been approved the previous Thursday by a 2/3 majority at the Debt Management Commission. Jeff clarified his understanding that the ballot question did not have to be placed until April 12th. The plausibility of revamping the question to reduce the amount was discussed. Borrowing less, but up to the amount approved was asked about. Kendra stated that by statute, they would have 6 years. After learning they could reduce the amount, Jeff was satisfied the Board might have longer to approve and submit the resolution if they chose not to do so that evening.

   Marita moved that the Board not vote on this until after discussion on number three.

2. Library Interest in 651 Adams Blvd - Action Possible, Jeff Breeden

   Jeff expressed he had not heard anything new from the City. Marita volunteered they may be thinking of putting Emergency Aid there. She had heard of a plan to move the museum to a historical building. She discovered the new City Manager may have plans to move Emergency Aid to 651 Adams when State inspectors came to the Emergency Aid building. She stated that Emergency Aid has not been informed officially of this plan. No loading dock as well as distance from uptown were listed as
detriments as well as size restriction, but the bus line was cited as providing the same accessibility to clients. The Board agreed they were in a holding pattern.

3. Library ballot issue update – Action Possible, Marita Rhinehart

The group had discussed forming a committee and Board members had been asked to reach out to people of influence and check in with Kim by the end of the previous month. Ann had beaten Marita to checking in, but she wondered what the others had discovered. Erica mentioned anecdotal conversations. Marita reminded the Board the election is only four months away.

Marita shared the staff had interacted with a company about doing the survey. She felt the staff members would be willing to jump through any hoop asked of them, but she was concerned about the staff’s welfare. She shared her personal interactions with three people who love the library and all the library does, but she still had no positive responses from people willing to be champions for the library. Ann had expressed the previous month that she had no luck either. Jeff, in the last 30 days had also only gotten negative responses. Marita said she was concerned they were going to get slammed twice. With personal conversations, she was able to educate and transform voter inclinations, but she asked how they could connect with 5,000 people and have individual conversations.

Marita lamented that a small municipal election was politically the right time to be on the ballot. Taking advantage of this final Boulder City municipal election would be the right move, but she asked, “Are we ready?” She feared there was not enough time to get across why there is a need and what is needed. She expressed concern about so many issues of public confusion. Marita said she brought forward these qualms and wanted to ask the others where they stood.

Jeff thanked Marita and Ann for collecting good temperatures from the community. Rachel added she had spoken to individuals who were advocates, but had found no one willing to participate on a committee publicly. One advocate for the pool provided feedback and said that in terms of need, the pool’s more important. To people not using the library or those who have not been turned down for the use of a room, the perception is that the library is not broken. Rachel feels the library will continue to struggle with that public impression. She agreed with Ann’s point from the previous month. Many people had turned up to share input and had dedicated time to the formulation of the plans. She felt the Board owed them as well. Rachel voiced that action was still required for the Board to “live up to the obligation to those people who are here all the time.” How to do that and at what amount was discussed.

Rachel proposed proceeding with the bond and then pulling back and using Capital Improvement funds if needed. She likened it to asking for a Cadillac but settling for a Nissan Sentra. Marita did not like finding the money after being told “no” twice. The importance of public opinion was agreed upon. Speculation about the turn-out and the results of the municipal election followed. Jeff agreed that if eight meeting rooms
were built with the pool the library might not need the ones planned for. Kim pointed out they would not be free of charge and it was confirmed that the meeting rooms at the Henderson pool are not free.

Erica shared two major concerns she had ascertained from her community conversations. She identified transparency as being a concern. People wanted to know exactly where the money was going. After holding the public meetings and planning sessions she was confounded about how to be more transparent. She noted the interest in where and how the money would be spent. She felt preparation and clarity of the message will be key to success going forward. She also discovered concern and confusion from citizens who think the pool and the library are both municipal projects. How to separate the two in public opinion was expressed as a concern. Marita noted this was why she was worried they only had four months. Getting out the message and fixing the problems in that amount of time would be greatly challenging.

Further branding confusion was discussed regarding perception that the Boulder City Library is part of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District (LVCCCLD). The issuance of Golden Knights library cards by LVCCCLD and requests made by Boulder City patrons was to this point. Reasons for the confusion, branding, and a conversation about library card images followed.

Jeff said Marita had shared her impressions of conversations with the staff, but he asked for more information from Kim. Kim said Marita had read the staff well. She said the staff will be 100% behind the Board’s decision, but they too had been talking to friends and neighbors and they were hearing questioning about why they were doing this after they’d just been told no. She said the staff was feeling hesitant. They were getting defensive about comments on Facebook. They seemed confused about defending the library when they were used to promoting it.

The survey was the next subject of conversation. Marita shared the consultant had expressed the benefit of more time. She felt going forward with the survey would provide valuable information regardless of whether the Board proceeded with this next election or one at a later date. Ann noted surprise at the length of the survey.

Marita returned to asking for the Board’s thoughts. Rachel agreed it will be difficult, but felt that will always be the case. She said maybe it is more difficult because of the pool, but she countered, maybe it makes for an easier comparison. She advocated getting the word out. Kim expressed concern about the formation of a PAC in order to have money and an organization to get the message out. She shared her failed endeavors to secure influential people to participate in that activity.
Jeff pointed out that the minutes indicate the group said they did not want to go forward at this time and then agreed politically this would be the right election. He proposed that if 2020 will be too complicated then maybe they consider 2022. He speculated that they would have more information to go on and would not have gone straight back. Ann asked how long the Debt Management Commission (DMC) approval would last. Jeff did not see that as a huge hurdle. They would have to ask again next time, but because of the timing, they had to keep their options open and that is why they had gone forward with the DMC the previous week.

Jeff asked, “What do we want to do?” Rachel asked about the survey results. She preferred concrete information before making a decision. She said she could accept the 2.5-million-dollar option if it was quantified from a neutral 3rd party. Ann and Marita were concerned with timing and the fact that they could not even get the PAC going. Jeff agreed the decision needed to happen that night but he attested that due to the timing, during tax season, he personally could not invest himself in the process if they decided to push forward.

Marita asked about the PR firm that could help the library Pro Bono. She wanted to know what EveryLibrary had told Kim. Kim explained they have a whole website and they meet with a client online and explain the expectations they have for you and what they hope your PAC will do. She pointed out that people here are the prerequisite to meet and be guided. She listed the numerous areas they cover from campaign basics to fundraising and managing volunteers. She also confirmed they advocated for a minimum of a year of preparation and preferred multiple years.

Option C as presented by the architect was discussed and whether the library could afford to do that on its own was questioned. Catastrophic events such as the HVAC going out and having money available for the building next door, should that come to pass, were examined. Practical concerns about transportation between levels and staffing for this adapted plan where raised and pondered. The Board concurred the shift to focusing on the basement would require setting a budget for LGA and a new plan. The need to leave a substantial reserve to handle general catastrophic events was a concern.

Jeff reminded the group they had the potential to make a motion on the resolution. No motion, he pointed out, meant nothing would happen. They had to decide if they wanted to keep hope alive. He said they were awful close to having to ask for money. After Kim listed the few names of people offering to be of assistance, the Board determined that most people they considered to be supporters had reservations; even if they were not coming out and saying so. Even without a survey, Erica expressed they still had a good anticipatory take on the mood of the voters. The Board decided they would not be likely to get the dollars. The public offered many opinions and most champions were currently afraid of publicly going forward. Ann spoke up and expressed they needed to let it go for now.
Erica concluded that they needed to present a statement for the constituents who favored the library. For the record the Board wanted to say the need is still there but they have been listening to voters on both sides and upon further research, they have decided to wait and not go to the voters this June. A letter to the editor was decided upon with a request for survey input and continued community engagement. The details of the composition of this communication were discussed as well as the timing for the release of the letter.

The next point of conversation was to inform the City and the people who had agreed to write the ballot arguments. Assignments were made as to who would make phone calls or written communications. The professionals assisting the library such as Jim Chachas, Kendra Follett, and LGA also needed to hear of their decision. Jeff offered to let Craig with LGA know they would still be going forward, but later.

Jeff made a motion that the Board abandon the bond issue for the June 11th, 2019 election. Ann seconded. As part of discussion, Erica said it is tough and she feels genuinely torn. There is a need yet she wants to be responsive to both sides. If time is needed that does not mean they have let the project go. Rachel presented they have done research and will need to convey that to the public. Jeff and Marita felt more discussion was required about the message they wanted to give to the community so they determined they needed to close out the unfinished business from item 1.

Jeff amended his motion to call for a vote upon passing the resolution. Jeff made a motion to approve the Resolution to request 8.68 million-dollars in bonds in the June 11, 2019 municipal election. Ann approved the amendment. Jeff clarified a yes vote would approve going forward with the bond. The motion failed unanimously.

The Board continued with discussion on item number 3. After conversation, it was determined Rachel and Erica would compose the letter and present it to the local paper on behalf of the entire Board. Compliance with open meeting law requirements was given much attention, so specific messages the members felt needed to be included were presented:
- there is a need however there is a process
- be mindful the Board is still selling it for the next time
- they are continuing to evaluate
- offer a call to action at the end with a request to please engage with us
- we want to make the library what the community wants and needs
- all the community input is needed
- and a survey is being put into the field, if you get it please help us.

Members commented that it was a tough night. Marita was thanked for bringing the conversation forward. Kim agreed to ask to have the appointment of ballot question writers removed from the City Council meeting agenda. Deanna was thanked for offering her services and members suggested keeping the names of those citizens willing to help for the future.
“Where are we going from here?” was the next question. Jeff suggested they wait for the survey and around May, refine plans. Marita pointed out April is when they work on the budget so they will still have to think about the building adjustments before the budget can be passed in May. Jeff questioned the lead time on floating medium term bonds. Marita said she did not want to have to revise the budget so she wanted to make sure the project is in there. They determined they would tell Craig they might know more by the summer. They stated they had not quit, but didn’t want to have him start redrawing yet. They speculated the group’s passion for the project and the disappointment would be understood by him.

VI. Announcements:
1. Winter Reading Program, December 14 - February 25, 2019
2. Art Class with Bob Ross, 1pm Community Room, Saturday February 16, 2019
   By video. The therapeutic characteristics of art were brought up.
3. Library Closed for Presidents’ Day Monday February 18, 2019
4. After Hours Movie, 5:30pm Community Room, Friday February 22, 2019
   In answer to the question – it will be “Crazy Rich Asians”
5. Sean Gaskell on the African Kora, 6pm Community Room, Monday February 25, 2019
6. Movie in the Amphitheater, 7:30pm, Saturday March 2, 2019 It will be the second Wreck it Ralph – “Ralph Breaks the Internet.”
7. Boulder City Library Board Meeting, 7pm, Board Room, Wednesday March 20, 2019

VII. Citizen Participation: Items raised under this portion of the Agenda cannot be acted upon until provisions of Nevada’s Open Meeting Law have been completed. Therefore, any action on such items must be considered at a later meeting. Public comment is generally limited to 5 minutes per person.

Deanna added the Romance book group will meet on the 21st at 6 p.m. at the Brew Pub. The Mystery group meets the following Thursday in the library. She also shared her explanation to people about the difference between Boulder City Library and LVCLD. She likens it to kids with toys who share and play together, but in the end, they take their own toys home. A tactic she has used as she has talked about the library expansion with neighbors is to compare it to buying a house and paying it off, but then as your life has changed, you discover your needs have changed. You may have grandkids who need play space or you may want an office so you can work from home. It is still a great house, but you may want to take out a loan to make the changes you need.

VIII. Adjournment:

Ann Langevin moved to adjourn. Rachel Hunt seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.