



#2 APRIL 1, 2018

The FOBBL FLYER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BIRCH BAY LIBRARY

BYLAWS AMENDED

The FOBBL bylaws went through a vigorous and lengthy rewrite with the final version being approved at the March 2018 Board meeting. One of the significant changes was to Section III. Membership:

A. Eligibility

1. Membership shall be open to all individuals who support its purpose and activities.
2. Membership shall be determined by payment of an annual fee of \$10.
3. Membership period shall be June 1- May 31 of the following year.

B. Meetings

1. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held during the month of June each year, at which time an annual report of the organization is presented. Members who cannot attend the AGM may sign a proxy, assigning their voting rights to

another member. Any proxy must be provided to the Secretary by the start time of the AGM.

2. The Board of Directors (BOD) may, by majority vote, call a Special General Membership (SGM) meeting with a minimum 15 days' notice.

C. Elections

The Board of Directors shall be a maximum of eleven (11) members elected as follows:

1. Nine (9) board members shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership. Prior to voting, nominations for board positions shall be opened and made by the members in attendance or by proxy. However, the vacant positions will not be decided by the membership but the BOD.
2. Two (2) additional Board positions shall be filled by the Chairpersons of the Development and Communications committees. The Chairpersons are elected by their respective committees.
3. The officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
4. The term of Board Members shall be two years.

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Photo by Chuck Kinzer, ckimageart.com

**COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE**

The FOBBL Communications Committee continues to push ahead on multiple fronts, including an initial brochure (expected soon). However, the major focus of this past quarter has been our Logo Contest. The submissions deadline closed March 15th; all artwork received was put in front of a panel of distinguished judges on March 19th. Recommendations from that panel are still being considered, but a final decision on next steps is expected by the early April.

FOBBL-CC's next major undertaking will be engineering the strategic replacement for our temporary website – a totally new platform that will serve as the focal point for FOBBL's digital communications for years to come.

Brian Bell, Communications Committee Chair

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**DESIGN
COMMITTEE**

In December of 2017, WCLS convened a Birch Bay Library Design Committee [in planning for the future Birch Bay Vogt Community Library —ed.] The first decision of the committee was to add more members to the committee that are residents of Birch Bay so that at least half of the representation are community members. The committee today includes six Birch Bay residents, one Lummi tribal member, two WCLS Board of Trustees, and WCLS staff. This committee is tasked with selecting an architectural design firm to work closely with community residents and WCLS staff through a series of community engagement events. Ultimately, we are working to develop a library design that reflects community interests, supports library services, and generates excitement about the project. Community engagement design charrette events will likely occur through the summer months. By November, a final schematic design along with cost estimates should be prepared for approval by the WCLS Board of Trustees.

Currently, the Birch Bay Library Design Committee is in the phase of selecting a design firm to complete this work. The recommendation of the committee will be presented to the

WCLS Board of Trustees at their meeting on April 17th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the WCLS Administrative Services building located at 5205 Northwest Drive, Bellingham. This meeting is open to the public.

Michael Cox, Deputy Director, WCLS

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**DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE**

Why A Library for Birch Bay

Based on the latest census data, with a population of 8,500 full time residences, there are many essential services that the Birch Bay community should have and a public library is one of those. The citizens of this community are ready to make the Birch Bay Vogt Community Library a reality. The need for a library is magnified by the fact that Birch Bay does not have a school. It depends upon the Blaine School District to provide this vital and important service. When you add the fact that 60% of the students attending Blaine schools come from the Birch Bay community, you have to ask; are we truly serving the needs of our children?

Community libraries are much more than merely a place for books. They are a place of engagement for schoolchildren in the sights and sounds of the world in the comfort and safety of services close to home. Libraries enhance the lives of senior citizens with the access to information and the opportunities to engage with others to learn, socialize and volunteer. Libraries enable tourists and other visitors to learn more about the new place of forests and the Salish Sea. Libraries enhance toddlers with the world of storybooks.

A survey of local residence conducted by the Whatcom County Library System received an overwhelming response indicating that over 80% of the local residences would welcome, and use, a local library, and, would lend their financial support to make it a reality.

The current estimated cost to build this library is \$3.5 million dollars. The effort to raise this money is underway; beginning

with the Friends of the Birch Bay Library forming a Development Committee to oversee this task. The Development Committee has begun by first taking the time to learn the steps of, and understand the mechanics, of developing and implementing a Capital Fundraising Campaign of this nature. This begins by building relationships with local businesses, citizens and other interested parties that will assist them in this endeavor. The Development Committee is working in a close relationship with The Whatcom County Library System and the Whatcom County Library Foundation, as well as other interested partners, to build a campaign that will stand the test of time, leading to its ultimate success in building the Birch Bay Vogt Community Library.

If you would like to help in making this very worthy project a reality, now is the time to step forward. Whether it is by serving on the Development Committee or simply joining The Friends of the Birch Bay Library (FOBBL) organization, adding your support can help provide the community wide support that is needed for a successful outcome.

Pat Jerns, Chair, Development Committee

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MOU AMENDMENT

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Friends of Birch Bay Library (FOBBL) and the Whatcom County Rural Library District (dba Whatcom County Library System — WCLS) was amended as follows:

Paragraph 12. ...In particular, if after five years following the date of this Memorandum of Understanding, at least 40% of the then-current estimated cost of the project has not been raised, WCLS retains the right, in its sole discretion, to sell the Property. In this event, WCLF* will attempt to contact known donors to ask if they would like their donation refunded or applied to ~~another library purpose~~ *other improvement to library services to Birch Bay.*

* Whatcom County Library Foundation [not spelled out in this portion of the MOU — ed.]

SUMMER EVENTS

Come visit us at our booth this summer. We will be participating in these Birch Bay events:

Kite Festival	May 26-27
Sand Sculpture Competition	July 14-15
Rollback Week	August 14-15
Discover Birch Bay Days	September 1-2 (Labor Day Weekend)

We also will be walking in the Discover Birch Bay Days Parade. Come walk with us; staging at 7567 Morrison Avenue, starting at 10:00 a.m. on September 1st.

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HELP WANTED

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Staffing booths, building a little “Take One, Give One” library box or walking in a parade, are ways you can help our Friends group continue to inform the community about our goal of a branch library in Birch Bay. Please contact birchbaycommunitylibrary@gmail.com.

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CORRECTION

In the last edition the photo of the Vogt home, site of the future library, was erroneously credited. It is herewith run again with correct attribution.

If you wish to comment or be taken off this list, please email birchbaycommunitylibrary@gmail.com.



Photo by Chuck Kinzer; ckimageart.com