

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE RETENTION

Library Board Board/Committee

Code section acknowledging Board/Committee provided? Chapter 3.52

Board/Committee Established: 1953 (see attached, "History of the Petersburg Public Library")

1. Times met in past year: 6 (minutes of each meeting attached).

2. How many "referred" items did the board/committee address over the past two years that were referred by the assembly (council) or manager? What topics/matters were referred to the board/committee?

- Bonding for new library
- Haugen & Second Street cross walk by new library
- Romiad building
- Design for new library
- New library site plan

3. If the Board/Committee did not address referred matters, what did they address and why did they address the matter?

Director's comments: Other issues addressed by the Library Board have included:

- Library Capital & Operating Budgets
- Complete update of all Library policies in preparation for the new facility
- Strategic Planning
- Technology Plan

Library Board Member comments:

"The board addresses issues initiated by the Library Director and the Assembly reviews these after the fact, rather than sending issues to the Assembly."

"We addressed many issues involving the new library building. We also addressed issues regarding collection development, staffing, patron issues, safety issues, programming needs. We provided support for the library functions such as the Christmas Literary, and the big move to the new facility."

"The library board has had a dynamic relation with Council members over the last few years as it has accommodated the building of the new library."

4. Do Department Heads find the advisory board/committee as needed and helpful in producing favorable outcomes for the borough (city)?

Director's comments: Petersburg's Library Board has been active and passionately committed to providing the highest quality of library service to the community for 60 years. The enthusiasm and dedication demonstrated by the original members of the board in the 1950s continues today in the current Library Board. Individual members are engaged, committed and work hard with the Director and staff to provide excellent library services in our community. Board members actively set policies and engages annually in planning and goal setting for the Library. Board members regularly donate to the Library, advocate for the Library in the community, and volunteer their time.

For the past 10 years Board and staff have been moving systematically through a series of long range planning activities that focus on improved services for the community. Our collective goal is to be the best library we can be for those we serve. By analyzing the make-up of our community, and identifying the needs of individuals and groups, board members seek to offer continuously evolving services. Board members regularly bring up pertinent and timely issues for discussion and bring feedback from local community members to the table to help guide and improve library services. The Board is committed to ensuring Petersburg has the best possible library, staff, services, and programs.

5. What do the Board/Committee members believe they have accomplished over the last year or two?

Library Board Member comments:

"Raised funding, spearheaded bonding and got a new library built."

"We helped with getting the new library designed and built, providing input to Tara and community outreach/campaigning."

"Building an effective board to increasingly supply new services to the community"

6. Does the board have any "authority" other than an advisory capacity? (i.e. the Library Board is "authorized to manage and operate the public library).

Director's comments: Yes, the library Board is authorized to manage and operate the library as per the Municipal Code.

Library board Member comments:

"We evaluate the librarian each year, and as noted we supervise the management and operations of the library"

"We advise the Librarian on major decisions affecting Petersburg Library. Providing guidance for library priorities. "

7. What has been the "vacancy" rate of the board/committee membership? (go back three years)

Director's comments: There have been some short term vacancies due to board members leaving because they are moving or due to other personal circumstances, otherwise the library board has been consistently full in the last three years.

8. If retained, should the board/committee be elected or appointed? Elected

Library Board Member comments:

"Elected, definitely"

"Elected."

"Elected to ensure its independence."

"Appointed. The financial disclosure requirement for the election will deter people from running."

9. What are the pros & cons of being elected or appointed?

Library Board Member comments:

"Elected Pros: less likelihood of "political" appointments. There are issues involving libraries and censorship that have come up in other towns that have appointed boards. These issues seriously compromised the core mission of the libraries involved, and allowed people with religious, personal or political agendas to shape the collection and management of a library, rather than the trained professional hired to do so."

"Elected results from the community interest as a whole; appointed is at the whim of the seated Assembly when a vacancy occurs."

"Elected so that we maintain diversity amongst the board members. "

"Definitely elected. If the board is appointed, there is potential for manipulation of library mission and goals, censorship of materials and/or programming. There have been cases in other towns where appointed boards have been wiped clean by incoming council members on a mission of some sort, and then planted full of supporters of that mission. It is important that the people setting policy for this facility be elected by a broad range of the public voters. We unanimously believe we should continue. A library is a dynamic, ever-changing and growing collection of resources and materials that must meet the needs of a broad range of interests and tastes. In some towns, this mission of meeting a diversity of needs has been subverted by personal agendas of a particular city council or council member. It is vital that the public have a means to give input and support to the library staff in."

"Elected. The election of the members furthers the goal of governance being representational."

10. What should be the membership number of the board/committee? 7

Library Board Member comments:

"We currently have 7 members, and this is working well for us. We each bring our own diverse experiences to the board and the more points of view and ideas that are present, the better."

"Seven, because we live in a place people like to leave in the winter and it is easier to get a quorum on a regular basis with additional members."