

Library Blue Ribbon Committee

Committee: Library Blue Ribbon Committee

Panel: Seven West Richland Citizens

1. KyriAnne Boothroyd
2. Lynn Neitzel-Cleavenger
3. Patricia Jewett
4. Kayla Nield
5. Pam Richey
6. Travis Janson Slougher
7. Kathleen (Kathy) Whelan

West Richland Mayor: Brent Gerry

West Richland Council Liaison: Council Member Ken Stoker

Volunteer Committee Facilitator: Donna Noski

City Staff: Finance Director Jessica Platt

Mid-Columbia Libraries: Davin Diaz, Communications & Advancement Director and Tom Moak, West Richland Library Branch Manager

Meeting Dates: First meeting March 3, 2016, thereafter as determined by Committee

Mission: To evaluate the library funding challenges, make a recommendation to the Mayor on how library services should be funded and assist communicating with our citizenry.

List of topics for the Committee to study and provide recommendations:

1. What are the library funding challenges?
2. Are there existing or potential other revenue sources available to satisfactorily fund the library?
3. If not, are current services important enough to ask West Richland residents to consider a ballot measure for a tax increase to pay for library services?

If the Committee determines that a ballot measure should be recommended, the following additional questions will be considered for recommendations:

4. At what rate should the tax be set?
5. Which services and capital should be included in an expenditure plan to be presented with the ballot measure?
6. Should there be an operating reserve fund established in the event of economic uncertainty or distress (such as a recession) and a reserve for capital replacement costs on the library facility? If so, how should it be established and how can reserves be spent?
7. When should the measure be put on the ballot? (If this question is considered, staff will discuss potential election dates, and criteria for placing the measure on a specific ballot.)
8. What community outreach efforts should be implemented to ensure residents fully understand the reasons for considering a tax measure and the expenditure plan accompanying the measure?