

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Shoreline Library Board Annual Report
DEPARTMENT:	Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services
PRESENTED BY:	Dick Deal, PRCS Director Mary Lynn Potter, Shoreline Library Board Chair

INTRODUCTION

Library Board Chair Mary Lynn Potter will provide a presentation to the Council on 2005 library activities and plans for 2006.

BACKGROUND

The Shoreline Library Board reports to the City Council annually on activities at the Shoreline Library and Richmond Beach Library from the previous year and plans for the current year. This Board is an advisory board to the King County Library System (KCLS) which is responsible for the operation of over 40 library branches in King County, including the Shoreline Library and Richmond Beach Library. The Shoreline Library Board, whose members are appointed by the Council, was created in 1995 to provide input to KCLS on issues relating to our local libraries.

As an advisory group, their responsibilities include making recommendations to KCLS on issues of utilization of the libraries, enforcement of rules and regulations, improvements to the building and collections, and scope and quality of service.

"Clustering"

In 2005, our local libraries experienced significant change with the implementation of "clustering" announced in October, becoming effective January 1, 2006. With this change, we went from having one manager at each library to one manager for the two libraries. The intent is to free up one person from handling administrative tasks to spending more time with library patrons. For the past two years KCLS has implemented "clustering" in other King County cities. However, this change was troublesome for the Library Board due the lack of information sharing with the Board and the community. KCLS has agreed to evaluate the program in Shoreline after one year to determine if "clustering" is as effective as anticipated.

Shoreline Library Parking

The Shoreline Library is one of the busiest libraries in the entire system; however, the existing park lot is insufficient. In order to expand the parking lot, KCLS has acquired three homes west of the Library on NE 175th Street. The Library Board will be working with KCLS staff on lot design later this year.

Customer Service

To improve customer service, an automated check in system will be installed at the Shoreline Library in 2006. Four libraries have been selected as test sites for this new technology that will allow patrons to return books 24 hours a day and receive a receipt showing that all books were returned. The books will be automatically sorted and placed in carts for re-shelving, saving several steps from the traditional manual system currently in place, returning books to shelves faster and allowing staff to better serve library patrons.

Overall Services

The circulation of books and materials at both libraries continues to be very strong even though much research by patrons is being done on the library's computers.

In addition, there have been improvements to the collections at both libraries, expanded outreach to serve the needs of immigrants, and a focus on early childhood learning.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is needed.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney ____