Library Board to discuss National Guard recognition and potential new libraries

TACOMA – The Pierce County Library System Board of Trustees will discuss recognition from the National Guard, potential new library buildings in the cities of Lakewood and Sumner, partnerships, and other issues at the board’s monthly meeting at the Administrative Center and Library, 3005 112th St. E., Tacoma, on Wednesday, May 8, at 3:30 p.m.

At the July meeting, the Board of Trustees will conduct the following business.

Recognition from the National Guard: As part of the Pierce County Library’s Staff Diversity and Inclusion strategy, the Library System submitted a statement of support for the National Guard and Reservists. The Statement of Support Program is the cornerstone of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve’s effort to gain and maintain support from employers for people serving in the Guard and Reserve. The program is intended to increase support by encouraging employers to advocate for their employees to participate in the military. Supportive employers are critical to maintain the strength and readiness of the Nation’s Guard and Reserve units. At the board meeting, South Sound Co-Chair of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Wayne Hilton will present the Pierce County Library with a certificate to confirm the Library System’s support.

Potential new libraries in Lakewood and Sumner: Staff is actively engaging with the public about potential expanded libraries in new locations in Lakewood and Sumner. At the board meeting, staff will update the board on progress in libraries, online and in communities, to hear from residents about their thoughts, ideas and interests for replacing current libraries with new libraries in new locations to serve Lakewood, Tillicum and Sumner. With a theme around imagine – imagine a new Lakewood Library…Tillicum Library…Sumner Library, hundreds of people have already shared their ideas and opinions. The imagine theme is giving context and possibilities to conversations about libraries for today and tomorrow. To date, nearly 600 people have completed online surveys. People are also sharing their opinions via print surveys in libraries and at community events. The public engagement activities continue through September, with a plan to provide recommendations for next steps to the Library’s Board of Trustees this fall.

Library partnerships: Staff will give an overview of the benefits of the Library System’s partnerships and sponsorships, as well as discuss aspirations for growing and further nurturing valued alliances. Partnerships is a Core Service in the Library’s Strategic Plan and calls for the Library System to collaborate with others to best serve the public through partnerships. As a civic leader, the Library System is committed to strategic partnerships with numerous organizations – including for-profit, nonprofit and public agencies/governments. Partnerships are important to advance the Library’s services and commitment to serve all people.

About Pierce County Library System
The nationally acclaimed Pierce County Library System serves 603,000 people throughout Pierce County with 20 libraries and online services. The system is the fourth largest in the state and is funded primarily through property taxes. People may choose from 1.5 million books, movies and other materials, as well as nearly half a million online/downloadable materials. Pierce County Library is committed to directing services in three primary areas: learning, enjoyment and community connection. Its services and programs spark success for Pierce County residents. More than 2 million people visit Pierce County Libraries each year. The Library provides services and programs directly to people in adult care facilities or who are homebound, and to children in child care centers and schools. Pierce County Libraries are located at Anderson Island, Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville, Fife, Gig Harbor, Graham, Key Center, Lakewood, Milton/Edgewood, Orting, Parkland/Spanaway, Pierce County Library Administrative Center, South Hill, Steilacoom, Summit, Sumner, Tillicum and University Place. Pierce County Library is an independent municipal corporation and operates as a junior taxing district.

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