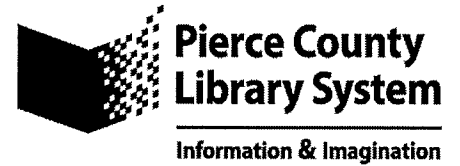

M E M O



Date: July 1, 2011

To: Chair J.J. McCament and Members of the Board

From: Neel Parikh, Executive Director

Subject: Board of Trustees Vacancy

On June 13th, the citizens' panel interviewed five candidates for the Board of Trustees vacancy. The panel unanimously recommended Robert Allen to the Pierce County Executive for appointment to the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Allen lives in Gig Harbor and works with the Economic Development Division of the Office of the Pierce County Executive. He has been involved in two library planning processes. Budd Wagner met him during the strategic planning process in 2007 and Rob also participated in the Facilities Master Plan visioning session.

Mr. Allen plans to attend the July 13th Board meeting and the Fife ground breaking.



APPLICATION FORM FOR
PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Application Due: May 27, 2011
Please attach resume if available.

Executive Director's Office
Pierce County Library System
3005 112th St. E., Tacoma, WA 98446
Phone: 253-548-3441
Email: sreyes@piercescountylibrary.org

Name: Robert Allen

Phone: Home. Business.

Email:

Address: Please indicate preferred mailing address with an asterisk (*).

Home: * Business.

Pierce County Council District Number: 7

Occupation/volunteer work: Community researcher/policy analyst for Pierce County

Education - Name of high school, college/university, degree: North Mason H.S.;
Washington University, B.A., M.A.

Professional and community activities - Including experience serving on a board or commission:

In my capacity working with communities and businesses throughout Pierce County I helped found three
501(c)(3) non-profit corporations, including Sustainable Pierce County, The Rainier Discovery Center and
Visit Rainier. I served on the boards of all three organizations, and as Treasurer for two. In addition, I also
served on the Pierce County FARM Board, an advisory board to the Pierce County Council on agricultural
policy issues. Also, I have played with the "garage band" The Disclaimers for 14 years, playing
primarily for charity fund-raising events which have generated well over one million dollars in donations.

Please attach a short statement describing your interest in serving on the Board and your perspective on
the role of the public library in our community.

Attach additional documentation/pages as needed.

Spouse and/or member of immediate family employee of Pierce County Library System? [] Yes [x] No

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 05/22/2011



Statement of Interest to Serve on Pierce County Library Board of Trustees

I remember getting my first library card when I was nine years old in Dundee, Illinois. The library was a mysterious place with the feel of a museum, but it was somehow different. At museums, there were lots of things to see and learn about, some to touch but few to interact with. Museums were a storehouse for the artifacts that defined our progression as humans from times before history up to the present. But they were just concerned with what was, not what was possible. I couldn't change an artifact or a historical event; I couldn't make a personal connection with what I saw or become involved in what I was learning about. Libraries were different. The library was a storehouse of the ideas that defined our progression through time, and ideas, unlike artifacts, were accessible to me. Ideas I could hold in my mind. Ideas I could expand upon, push and pull and tug on, turn inside-out and upside-down and no matter what I did with them they were still there and available for everyone else to experience. The thought, at nine years old, that all this was available to me turned that first library card into a passport from a whole other universe.

I still see libraries as the repositories for the ideas that make us who we are. But more importantly, they hold the seeds of the ideas that will make us who we will become. As libraries struggle to remain relevant in a time when information is ubiquitous, and access to information is expanding like never before, that fundamental role is still the same. Libraries introduce us to the world of ideas and give us permission, even encourage us, to make those ideas our own and use them to shape the future. In a letter, Sir Isaac Newton admitted to Robert Hooke that if he had seen further than others, it was "by standing on the shoulders of giants." Libraries are the step ladders that allow us to scale those lofty heights.

I have been impressed with the leadership and management of the Pierce County Library System for some time. It would be an honor to use my experience in public policy development and analysis to help keep our libraries a valued asset, to help them meet the challenges that lie ahead, and perhaps even help them become better than they already are. This is a unique opportunity to serve the community, and I look forward to discussing how I might fit with the organization and what I can bring to the Board of Trustees.

"If this nation is to be wise as well as strong, if we are to achieve our destiny, then we need more new ideas from more wise [people] reading more good books in more public libraries. These libraries should be open to all – except the censor. We must know all the facts and hear all the alternatives and listen to all the criticisms." – Senator John F. Kennedy.

Robert Allen

Skills and Abilities

Experienced in research methods for community/economic development, including federal/state data sources.
Experienced in development and analysis of public policy.
Experienced in grant writing, grant monitoring and project management.
Proficient with a wide range of computer applications including MS Office, ArcView GIS and Photoshop.

Education

1993 – Western Washington University, BA, Communications (Magna Cum Laude)
1994 – Western Washington University, MA, Political Science, Public Policy and Administration

Experience

1998-Present – Office of the Pierce County Executive, Economic Development Division

Provide research and analysis of demographic and economic data for businesses, non-profit organizations, other County agencies and elected officials; write and comment on legislation and policy proposals at the state and local levels; manage projects supporting County economic development goals; facilitate public meetings as part of the sub-area planning process under the Growth Management Act; serve as ex-officio member of the Pierce County FARM Board; participate in planning and development of community projects; act as lead worker in the absence of Division Manager.

1994-1998 – Pierce County Department of Community Services

Assisted with selection of projects for funding under the Community Development Block Grant and other grant programs; conducted research to support Federal entitlement programs and assess State Growth Management Act impacts; designed and conducted surveys to support County programs; conducted research and analysis in support of businesses and non-profit organizations; wrote grants to support community projects.

1979-1994 – Various

After high school until finishing college as a working adult, worked as a logger, farmed Christmas trees, repaired cars and installed underground utilities.

References

Linda Ishem, Ph.D., University of Washington, Urban Studies Program,
(253) 861-6222

Charlie Gray, Deputy Executive Director, Pierce County Housing Authority,
(253) 620-5400 x1426

David Ottey, Retired
(360) 458-5275

Honors and Awards – Individually or as Team Member

1993 – Outstanding Graduate in Communications, Western Washington University
1996 – Achievement Award in Fiscal Management, National Association of Counties
1999 – Achievement Award in Community/Economic Development, National Association of Counties
2007 – Vision 2020 Award, Puget Sound Regional Council
2008 – Vision 2020 Award, Puget Sound Regional Council
2008 – John Cordrey Award, Council for Community and Economic Research
2009 – Certified Community Researcher, Council for Community and Economic Research