

Meeting called to order: 7:00 pm

Dr. Drake and Erin Rasmussen of Emerson School

Dr. Drake returned after visiting at the beginning of the school year. She offered thanks for notes of encouragement throughout the year. Emerson, for nearly 20 years, has been at the bottom of achievement according to state assessment data. She inherited a challenging situation as the school's principal, and for newly recruited teachers and staff. Dr. Drake presented the new vision for Emerson—one that presents Emerson as a school that can achieve, where students are respected and welcomed, and where "Emerson Eagles soar!"

Dr. Drake presented the school's state assessment report card 2015-17, illustrating growth for all grade-levels in English and Math proficiency over the past three years. Emerson is on track to move out of "Priority Status" for at-risk schools, with continued increases for the next year.

Growth is attributed, in part, to increased parent involvement, which had dwindled to 3 PTA volunteers, and is now up to 40 members helping out on a regular basis. Monthly meetings include a "family dinner" and a celebration of recent accomplishments.

Developing strong student attendance was viewed as an opportunity to create habits that would continue throughout a student's school years. Emerson held a campaign for increased perfect attendance and increased from 70 students in October 2015 to 150 in May 2017.

Emerson's teachers are serving as mentors, and math and reading coaches are helping to develop curriculum.

Dr. Drake is moving to a new position with the school district, working on equity and equal representation. Erin Rasmussen is coming on as the new principal of Emerson, from Acki school. She taught 4th and 5th grade before becoming the principal. Ms. Rasmussen doubled the opportunities for Algebra coursework by the 8th grade—an important college preparatory course, and will be continuing the initiatives at Emerson to similarly build curriculum in a data-driven way.

Su reiterates the club's commitment to supporting Emerson school, and offers an invitation for Ms. Rasmussen to let us know how we can best help the school.

Last week's minutes approved.

Building committee:

Su and Gerd applied for a grant that Jackie had found. The grant could cover the costs of refinishing the exterior of the building.

The VFW is interested in moving forward with a less-expensive option of simply repainting the building. Su and Gerd will be applying for a Small Sparks grant that would cover the cost of this less-costly options.

Finance: Gerd out. Su says not much has changes.

Social Committee:

July 16; 3-5 pm first game night. Open to all ages, providing some games, folks encouraged to bring their own games as well. Four volunteers are helping with this—more volunteers are welcome.

September 10; 3-5 pm neighborhood meet and greet. Hope is to have several other clubs and organizations in attendance to create new connections within the community.

Education Committee: Mary invited Dr. Drake and Ms. Rasmussen

Technology: A few website updates. Nothing new to report.

Trash project: 7 Saturdays completed so far. Picking one street each week; have some supplies from the city to help facilitate. 2-6 people have been coming each time for 2 hours. At least 50 bags collected, which the City picks up afterwards. Would love more involvement—taking this Saturday off, but meeting again 2-4 pm on Saturday, June 24. Mary looking for commitments for additional volunteers.

New RBCC signs: Currently use four signs—maybe three if one was stolen. Members interested in purchasing four new signs. Jennifer Kantzer puts out the signs and Su hesitates to ask her to put out more than four signs. Unanimous approval to purchase new signs. Suggestion to purchase six instead in case we can get others to help put out the signs—no changes to vote. Next step is design.

Kraig Cook of the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods presented on the Your Voice Your Choice Parks and Streets Participatory Budgeting project. 900 ideas submitted in February, narrowed down to 10 projects which are now open to a vote. Each city council district has an equal budget that will be used to fund as many projects within each district as possible. They are trying to make the process equitable by selecting projects in areas that have had less investment in recent projects, and Kraig is here in part because outreach initiatives are targeted toward underserved areas. Voting can take place online, or drop off paper ballots at library and community centers. Voting ends June 30. seattle.gov/YVYC —link on website and Facebook page. Anyone 11 and older can vote by paper, anyone 13 and over can vote online. You can vote just once, for a district of your choice. This will happen again next year. Project submissions starting in October. Kraig hopes to come back in the fall to discuss project submissions.

Su and Kathy encouraging votes for the two Rainier Beach-focused initiatives (2A and 2B). Area at Rose St. will improve lighting and landscaping, encouraging more use of the area. Other area is near the schools and would improve pedestrian safety.

Representatives from Seattle Public Library:

Wei Cai, regional manager from RB to ID including CC and Beacon Hill.

Anne Videla, volunteer services coordinator for entire library system.

Mark and Kathy are both homework helpers, as are other community members.

Wei Cai: RB Library was remodeled December 2015 through a \$1.2 million project. The only branch that has had a complete facelift, as opposed to smaller remodeling projects at other branches. New features include low shelves, increased visibility of computers, new multi-purpose room for community use, and a digital media studio—unique to the RB branch—

opportunity for teen services program to facilitate teaching others on video production. Two machines loaded with digital production products like the Adobe creative suite and Audacity.

Shared flyer for teen and children's programming for the "Summer of Learning" and program flyers for adult programs at the RB branch. There will be prizes, including an iPad mini and two \$50 movie passes thanks to the Library Foundation. Adult programming includes tech help, career readiness, ESL, business finance, etc. Youth programming includes Somali and English storytelling, after-school meals program, homework help, etc.

The library has some sponsored book clubs. Peak Picks offers multiple copies of popular titles that will hopefully be beneficial to book clubs who are not sponsored by the library.

Some comments about the decrease in the number of books and the shifted focus toward a younger audience, and lack of ability to utilize interlibrary loan between other library systems. Wei notes that the renovation project decreased the collection size by just 10%—fill rate can skew perspective. To help with access for lower shelves, the library has purchased stools, and has changed the orientation of books on the lower shelves. Wei suggests using the online book recommendation system to address the library not meeting everyone's reading needs. Library recently renewed reciprocal agreement with the King County Library system to improve SPL access to KCL's collection.

Anne: Shared packet of volunteer program information and the importance of volunteers in supporting the library system. Service learning projects, for high schoolers to help with the community needs while also learning. Learning buddies, where high schoolers mentor elementary kids. Adult tutor and homework helper opportunities support the greatest need for library users. For adult tutors, there is no set curriculum, but volunteers help with ESL prep, citizenship test prep, GED prep, etc. Homework helpers work primarily with elementary students, but support K-12. Mary and Kathy volunteer as homework helpers—need more volunteers to expand the program to additional days of the week. Especially helpful for children of recent immigrants and refugees in RB. The library works closely with the schools to prepare volunteers for some of the more specialized tutoring (e.g. math, common core standards). Homework helpers will shift focus to learning games as homework load decreases. Next season is Sept 11–June 14. They need three volunteers per shift, plus substitutes.

Announcements:

Ron: Rainier Ready Drill Saturday July 29; setup at 9, drill 10 am–noon.

Kathy: Rainier Valley Food Bank Director lives in neighborhood and will accept food donations at his home.

Meeting adjourned: 8:32 pm