

TO: PARMLY BILLINGS LIBRARY BOARD

**FROM: BILL LAMDIN, CHAIR
LIBRARY RENAMING COMMITTEE**

RE: RECOMMENDATION FOR NEW NAME FOR LIBRARY

MEETING DATE: MARCH 14, 2013

RECOMMENDATION

The Library Renaming Committee recommends to the Parmly Billings Library Board that the new library be named the Billings Public Library.

BACKGROUND

The Committee met on January 18 and developed a process and schedule for solicitation of names from the public. At its second and final meeting on March 6, the 172 suggestions received via that process, as well as through mail, phone calls, social media and other means, were reviewed and the subject was thoroughly discussed.

Although Parmly Billings Library was suggested most frequently, at 29 times, the Committee was struck by the fact that the remaining 143 suggestions were in favor of a different name.

Of the 116 suggested new names, Billings Public Library was suggested 20 times, by far the most favored among new name suggestions, with the next most popular suggested only 5 times.

The name "Billings Public Library" is simple. It is the name most people new to the community or visiting would be looking for in the phone book or in online directories as it follows the widely-understood convention for naming public libraries, e.g. Bozeman Public Library, Great Falls Public Library, Laurel Public Library, Denver Public Library, Seattle Public Library, etc.

Finally, Billings Public Library honors both the Billings residents who voted for the bond issue that is paying for construction of the new building and the Billings family, including Frederick, for whom the City is named, and Parmly, whose name remains carved in stone at the entrance to the original Library building, now the Western Heritage Center.

In short, the new name is fresh and points to the future while at the same time continues to honor and respect the past.