

MINUTES

EAST BONNER COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING SANDPOINT, IDAHO Monday, May 8, 2023

WELCOME/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Amy Flint at 4:30 pm and was held in Community Room A of the Sandpoint Branch Library at 1407 Cedar Street in Sandpoint, Idaho. Other trustees present were Susan Shea and Joan Terrell. Judy Meyers and Jeanine Asche were present via zoom.

Also present were Director Viktor Sjoberg, staff members Mary-Claude Margairaz, Vanessa Velez and Brendan Mooney.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kirsten LeBlanc – Approached the board with a detailed plan to bring two disparate sides together in genuine compromise: create a card-access section to house legally obscene and graphically violent materials. All adults would have unfettered access, and parents who wanted their children to access the age-controlled area could sign a permission slip and their children would have entry with a simple swipe. Following this, public commentary after public commentary labeled her a Book Banner and a fascist. She hopes each trustee leaves this meeting and questions what responsibility she bears in the division and hostility that exists in this room, and what she can do to assuage it.

Hal Gates – is wondering why no one has submitted a challenge for removing books. Has anyone tried to test the system? What is driving this conversation?

Rae Charlton – retired librarian from Seattle; what a marvelous resource we have in our library. Public libraries are an American invention, they are community centers. Restricting access to information makes it more enticing. This would be appalling.

Kathryn Barlow – has a biblical view, all are created in the image of God. Trying to compromise, not banning books but creating a separate area.

George Rickert – thanks the board for supporting the Exploration Lab and providing materials that represent all points of view.

Dennis Sabath – gave a list of concerns to the Chair and got no response. The Chair upheld his banning of the library. The board has its own agenda and only cares about its agenda.

Collin Day – wants to expose the people who want to censor, restrict and otherwise ban books. Read comments from social media where he was accused of being a pervert that consumes

pedophilia material. This is not just defamation, it is dangerous hate speech. Quote: "we can agree to disagree and still love each other unless your disagreement is rooted in my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist" James Baldwin.

Denise Griffith – get involved. Do we really want to make changes to this library? Great outreach and programs.

Janet Pultorak – fighting for the lunch programs, Medicaid for all and housing. The group wanting restrictions has not followed the request for reconsideration process. Kids are curious and will find information. Is truly worried that restricting access to books is another form of banning. Leave the library alone.

CONSENT AGENDA

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES – regular meeting on April 10, 2023
- COMMUNICATIONS
- REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES
 - o Friends of the Library

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Susan Shea moved to accept the consent agenda, which includes the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held Monday, April 10, 2023, the communications and the reports of the committees and delegates of today's meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Jeanine Asche thinks Suzanne is doing such a great job. The escape room activity at the Clark Fork library sounded like such fun. Loved the comment that new hire Brendan Mooney feels like he is with family rather than an employer. Numbers are getting back to pre-pandemic levels.

Judy Meyers worked with Anna and is impressed with all the community connections she is making. Loves Brenden's 3D printed signs for the garden. The cabinet displays rock. She especially loved the lost and found display.

Joan Terrell loves that the Clark Fork branch IT is now on par with the Sandpoint branch.

Susan Shea presented a motion to accept the Report of the Library Director as submitted. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

Mary-Claude attended the Levy training in Coeur d'Alene and is finding the form to be much easier to complete.

Working on FY2024 budget – numbers are coming in from department heads and being reviewed by Viktor.

PERSI (Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho) rates will go down in July 2023 and then adjust up again in July 2024.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

Susan Shea made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report of Income and Expenditures and to pay the expenditures. The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

1. Cost of Living Adjustment Proposal – 4%

Jeanine Asche thanked Viktor for the clear report, giving the board what they need to know to decide. Viktor stated that COLA (cost of living adjustment) will be looked at yearly but that it may not be necessary some years. This year's research shows a cost-of-living increase of 8.9%.

Joan Terrell thinks it is a hypothetical set number. The most important benchmarks are local comparisons. The County is hiring an HR assistant at \$17.34 - 21.97. Amy Flint agrees that the board needs to look at the local region for comparison, like Coeur d'Alene and Spokane.

Viktor stated that the wage comparisons were made locally. This is what local institutions are doing right now with COLA, not including merit increases.

Susan Shea asked what the entry levels are at the library. Page is \$12 an hour and Circulation is \$15.89 an hour.

Jeanine Asche stated the COLA adjustment is minimal considering what is going on in our area.

Judy Meyers approves the 4% right now and would like to reserve the right to review it before the budget is set.

Joan Terrell made a motion to accept the 4% COLA rate increase for all current hourly employees as of October 1, 2023, and to adjust the wage scale as such. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Material Selection Process by Vanessa Velez.

The library currently has three selectors: Vanessa for the adult collection, Suzanne for the children's collection and Micheal for the audio video collection. A wide variety of sources is used, including journals, magazines, newspapers, blogs, newsletters, discussion groups, catalogs and websites. In addition, the library also uses serendipitous sources like reviews heard on the radio or podcast, or materials seen in newspapers, magazines, or stores.

Patron requests are also extremely important for collection development. The library follows a "patron-driven acquisitions" model, which means purchasing as many requests as possible that fit within our Collection Development Policy. In any given month, patron requests comprise about half of the items purchased. For anything that can't be purchased, an attempt is made to borrow it via Interlibrary Loans.

Request forms are available at all service desks in all branches, as well as on our website.

3. Public PC Replacement Plan by Brendan Mooney.

Brendan is currently assessing the state of our technology and which areas can be improved for the best patron experience. The public patron computers are beyond their years of life of three to five years. He will be paying attention to the "human experience" and will be engineering the new computers against vandalism.

Amy Flint asked how many seats (public computers) the library currently has. Brendan answered thirty-eight. Amy wondered if the library needs that many. Viktor agreed with Brendan that, based on current usage, this is the correct number of public computers and that he approved the purchase.

4. Additional comment before closing the meeting.

Jeanine Asche made a formal statement that the board meetings and the library is a safe zone in which to speak freely and express your opinions regardless of what they are. Everyone should be respectful.

ADJOURNMENT

Joan Terrell moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm.

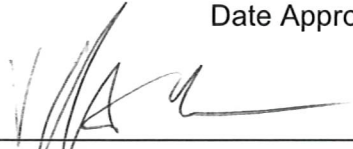
The next scheduled meeting will be:

- Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, 4:30 pm, Monday June 12, 2023, Community Meeting Room A & B, Sandpoint Branch Library, 1407 Cedar Street, Sandpoint, Idaho.


Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Claude Margairaz
Bookkeeper

Date Approved 7/10/2023



Viktor Sjöberg, Director



Amy Flint, Board Chairperson