

**Community Library Network
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday 18 August 2022
Hayden Library**

2:00 – 5:00 pm

We Empower Discovery

Agenda

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm

Roll call: Trustees: Katie Blank, Judy Meyer, Regina McCrea (arrived at 2:06 pm), Rachele Ottosen, Vanessa Robinson
Treasurer: Michele Veale
Staff: Amy Rodda, Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller, Janelle Sells, Roxanne Kalenborn, Nick Madsen

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Speakers must state name and community and speak for no more than 3 minutes.

Persons addressing the Board are expected to observe a level of civility and decorum appropriate for a public meeting.

No personal attacks or disruptions from audience members will be tolerated.

- Katie Y, Athol – She put a packet together of books that are in the libraries. Books that talk about sexting, how to have sex, and suicide. It makes her ill that local libraries have these books.
- Mike Birdsong – Asked if anyone had to take a young child to court after being sexually abused or had to search for a body. It is the responsibility of the parent to protect children from harmful materials. Libraries need to be a safe place for children.
- Sandra White with the Hayden City Council – She is opposed to materials that promote sexuality to children. She offered a food buffet analogy to relate to libraries, there is something for everyone. Books influence children for the rest of their lives. Please have fresh and wholesome materials.
- Kara Claridge, Coeur d’Alene – She said there are two competing narratives. One is to protect children. The other is not to hate people. Is exposure to overt sexual content healthy for children, good for young people. The current children’s collection contains the introduction of and exposure to overt sexual literature. She asked if books about killing kittens or smoking in kindergarten, would be allowed in the library. If not, then why are other harmful materials allowed. She is not promoting censorship, intimidation or hate.
- Marianna Cochran, Rathdrum – She referred to Rodda as the apparent CLN spokes-body with a vagina, noting Rodda’s quote in the CDA press about a few concerns from a small group about objectionable materials. Cochran noted non-library related news reports from other small groups. She quoted from Rodda’s email to HREI about challenged library books. It won’t be long until it can be seen what a few concerns from this small group can achieve.
- Justin O’Connell, Coeur d’Alene – He works with central planning. He read from a “book” called Timmy. Asked if the library would consider having this book in the collection.
- Marcale Smith, Coeur d’Alene – She is careful about what books she checks out. She talked about a picture book that made her uncomfortable. Please consider putting children and teen books with adult content in a separate section.
- Wendy Smith – She read a passage from the Bible. She is aware that many special interest groups fund the libraries. Even federal dollars, if accepted, have strings attached. She is pleased with those on this Board who support removing harmful materials to children and noted other Board members are only interested in increasing library funding. Elections are coming and voters are watching the CIN Board and their actions.

- Ralph Shea, Coeur d'Alene – He has listened to many diverse opinions today. He spoke in support of the Board and the library system to remain open to all individuals, of all philosophies, and with all rights retained.

Hayden Library Annual Report – Roxanne Kalenborn (*20 minutes*)

- Roxanne Kalenborn introduced herself to the Board. She is the new manager of the Hayden library. She is originally from Minnesota and has a bachelor's degree in history. She obtained her Master of Libraries and Information Studies from University of British Columbia. Kalenborn started her employment with the Community Library Network in 2019 at the Post Falls Library and was promoted to Manager at Hayden in January 2022. Kalenborn introduced her staff. She noted statistics from July 2021 to July 2022. There have been many changes in the last year, especially with staffing. Hayden library works hard to champion literacy and informed communities. The Library of Things allows the public to try (small appliances, tools, and games) before buying. Displays are arranged utilizing Readers Advisory. 41 episodes of the podcasts have been created and are available for listening. Community partnerships include Kootenai Humane Society, The Literacy Project of North Idaho, Curative COVID testing, and Humana. The Crochet Connection have made hundreds of "book worms" that have been hidden throughout the library. Staff have attended conferences and online training. An ADA-compliant picnic table has been purchased through a grant from the library foundation. Staff strives to make anyone who walks through the library doors feels comfortable. New and exciting materials are merchandized on displays just inside the main doors. Robinson asked about Curative Testing. McCrea asked about Kalenborn's advanced degree and thanked her for the library reports. Meyer wondered how the different languages were selected. Veale noted how pleased she is that Kalenborn is now at Hayden. Blank talked about Hayden being her home library and how busy it is becoming.

Emerging Technologies Annual Report – Nick Madsen (*20 minutes*)

- Nick Madsen introduced himself to the Board. He has been in this position since 2018. He introduced his new staff member that splits time between Emerging Technology and Outreach/Bookmobile. Madsen showed a graph of members Emerging Technology has served since October 2021 - elementary age, teens, and families. He talked about the services that are offered including 3D printing, participating in community events at all the library communities, and LinkedIn Learning that is available for library members and staff for learning about new subjects. Many special events have been made available to the public like Some Disassembly Required and Maker Extravaganza. Through a grant from TDS, the Discovery Bus was able to go to schools that may not have as much access to technology and provide STEM programs. Emerging Technology looks to provide technology access, digital literacy, and utilizing and promoting a growth mindset. Robinson thanked Madsen for his presentation. McCrea noted while she was skeptical of starting the department, she is very pleased with its development. Ottosen likes that the department supports entrepreneurs.

Consent agenda: action item (*10 minutes*)

Minutes of the regular meeting of 18 July
 Minutes of the special meeting of 21 July
 Minutes of the CIN meeting of June 2022
 July CIN Financial Statements
 Community Library July 2022 reports

- Meyer moved to accept the consent agenda as listed. Robinson, Blank and McCrea noted two corrections for Minutes from July 18th and four corrections for Minutes from July 21st.

M, C - Meyer

Community Library Network July 2022 financial statements: action item (*5 minutes*)

- McCrea moved to accept the financial statements for July 2022. Rodda noted there are 2 months left of the fiscal year. Vehicle repairs have been costly. Vehicles will be included in future discussions for the Facilities Master Plan.

M, C - McCrea

Circulation Statistics: July (*5 minutes*)

- Rodda noted 5 of 7 locations are busier than June. 3 locations have surpassed 2019 stats.

Director's report (10 minutes)

- Rodda stated the Project Neighborly events are starting in August and going through October. Each library has planned community events. Youth Services submitted a grant request to the United Way and received a large stipend/grant for sensory programming, and to expand the hygiene hamper program, and launch into learning. Pinehurst library was highlighted in the Shoshone Press. Rodda noted that some books discussed during public comment are not owned by the district or are housed in the adult section. Robinson asked about books owned by the Coeur d'Alene library. Ottosen asked about the newspaper report quoting Rodda saying "a few concerns from a very small group". Rodda stated "very small group" may not have been accurately quoted. Meyer asked if the attendance at Project Neighborly events were tracked. McCrea asked about the controversial books and the process in place to challenge the books. The Materials Selection Policy will be an agenda item in the future. McCrea also asked about when the compensation study will be completed and what ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) stands for. Rodda noted the consultants are still working on researching data.

Discussion of strategic plan (30 minutes)

Adoption of strategic plan: action item

- Blank noted there is a motion on the table to adopt the strategic plan with changes:
 - McCrea moved to accept the strategic plan as presented by Library Strategies. Ottosen moved to amend the strategic plan by adding Goal 4, Strategy Point 5: cultivate public trust by implementing consistent, member-friendly policies and procedures.
- Rodda noted that the strategic plan was developed from staff and public surveys, the community retreat, and stakeholder interviews with business and community members. Blank was pleased the plan was driven by community input. Ottosen moved to further amend the plan by striking: Goal 1 - Strategy Point 7, Goal 2 - Strategy Point 3, Goal 2 - Strategy Point 1, Goal 4 - Strategy Point 4, and Goal 5 - Strategy Point 3.
- Discussion:
 - Goal 1 – Strategy Point 7
 - Ottosen believes this plan is boilerplate and vague, furthers the ALA agenda for DEI, child grooming, promiscuous sexuality, and pedophilia and not tailored to our community. Ottosen stated it is not the proper role of government to control information or belief. McCrea asked about using community experts and why Ottosen wants to discourage network-wide programming. Robinson noted she sees programs at other locations that she would like to attend. She does not see any problem using community experts for programs. Rodda noted that striking multiple bullet points discounts the community input used to develop the strategic plan. Meyer stated that staff are responsible for selecting appropriate community experts. Veale noted without community experts, programs are more limited.
 - Goal 2 – Strategy Point 3
 - Ottosen is concerned about The Ministry of Truth. She is concerned the library would sponsor agencies that would sign up more people for welfare. Rodda said this strategy was a request from the community to partner with other agencies in order to provide community members with a list of resources. Meyer noted that homeless individuals would use the library to clean up, but the library connected these individuals with resources for assistance. McCrea is opposed to removing bullet point 3, Goal 2. Robinson does not see the library becoming its own social service agency. Meyer said that some individuals use library computers to complete resumes for employment applications. Blank said the next step following approval will be staff developing an implementation plan that will be presented to the Board.
 - Goal 3 – Strategy Point 1
 - Ottosen is concerned that parents will not have knowledge of children's checkouts. Rodda stated that minors will always be required to have parental permission to obtain a library card. She also noted that this bullet point was geared more toward having more public awareness of library access and making online sign-up easier. Blank said the parents have complete control over if and how a child has access to the library. Ottosen said that most of the public think libraries are a safe place and librarians want the best for children but do not realize the smut and pornography on display in the library. Ottosen said Marianna Cochran read from books in the children's section that are pornographic. Rodda noted that the materials are not pornographic by the legal definition.

- Goal 4 – Strategy Point 4
 - Ottosen said that intellectual freedom forces harmful material on children. Veale noted that libraries are for the First Amendment which encompasses intellectual freedom and open access. Rodda noted that this bullet point came from broad community feedback. Robinson does not think removing Strategy 4 from Goal 4 would make a difference. She is looking forward to using this strategy to update the materials policy. McCrea said literacy is very important and as a public entity, open access for all is required. She also noted that Ottosen’s objection to this strategy contradicts her objection of Goal 2 - Strategy Point 3. Ottosen said that intellectual freedom is fine for adults, but children should be protected.
- Goal 5 – Strategy Point 3
 - Ottosen is opposed to Marxism as promoted by ALA. Rodda noted this is not based on ALA but what core library values are and what public libraries stand for in the United States. Robinson is concerned about the future ALA president wanting to “queer the catalogue”. American values for public libraries are literacy, open access, everyone is welcome, everyone is represented, and freedom to read. Rodda noted there is nothing the ALA suggests that requires libraries to adopt. ALA can lobby congress, which is concerning for Robinson. McCrea wants this bullet to stay to help reduce propaganda and for the library district to share their story. Meyer agrees with McCrea and this section of the strategic plan comes down to local control. Veale said if using the word “American” is a trigger, then just remove the word. Blank believes that many are not pleased with the President-elect for ALA and that her comments are not helpful to libraries. Ottosen stated that ALA is an evil, Marxist institution promoting harm to children.

Motion to strike the 5 Strategic Points noted by Ottosen

M, Failed – Ottosen; McCrea, Meyer, Robinson opposed

Motion to accept the strategic plan with first amendment by Ottosen

M, C – McCrea/Ottosen; Ottosen opposed.

Hayden library tour (20 minutes)

Break and library tour from 4:15 pm to 4:37 pm

Budget Discussion (30 minutes)

Adoption of 2023 budget: action item

- Ottosen moved to accept the budget with a 0% increase, growth only increase with an overall reduction of \$93,580 in the following areas: Adult programs from \$23,000 to \$15,000, Children’s programs from \$43,000 to \$30,000, Collections – Physical and E-materials from \$467,580 to \$400,000, and Collections – Library of Things from \$5,000 to \$0.00.
 - Robinson asked for clarification. Ottosen is proposing a less than 0% budget. McCrea said the 2% budget option includes facility needs and raises for staff to prevent staff loss. Ottosen wants the 0% due to the economy being in a recession. She wants the program budgets reduced because they are not the purpose of the library, reduce the collections to limit materials that may be harmful to children, while the Library of Things is cool, it is not the role of a government library, and facility needs have already been saved for. Veale noted that reducing the line items suggested is contrary to what the community members wanted as stated in the result of surveys and community retreats from the strategic plan. Rodda noted reducing collections would cause an increase in staff needs for inter-library loans. Children’s programs are mostly storytime and after-school STEM programs. Blank said reducing these lines has the appearance of punishing the community that participated in the surveys. McCrea stated again individual property taxes will be reduced by immense growth in the area. Robinson is for taking a 0% but not making additional reductions. Meyer does not support the motion.

M, Failed – Ottosen; Robinson, McCrea, Meyer

- McCrea moves to adopt the FY’23 budget at a 2% increase plus growth.

- Ottosen does not think now is the time to increase the budget. Veale noted the Post Falls City Council is taking the full 3%. The city manager described in detail how the actual dollar amount to individuals will be reduced. Rodda noted the 2% increase will allow the district to complete some outstanding facility needs

M, C – McCrea; Robinson and Ottosen opposed

Trustee Continuing Education (*5 minutes*)

ICRMP training

Blank will contact Jim McNall from ICRMP and report back next month

Facilities updates (*5 minutes*) - none

Legislative updates (*2.5 minutes*)

The election in November is important

Community announcements (*2.5 minutes*)

Discussion of future agenda requests (The board will decide via consensus whether these items will be moved to a future agenda) (*2.5 minutes*)

Board self-evaluation (request from Meyer)

Ideas welcome for assistance

Material selection policy review (scheduled for 9/15 regular meeting)

This policy will start review at the September meeting. Ottosen suggested not making it an action item since the meeting will be in Pinehurst.

Robinson asked about the cost of paper and toner for copies. Rodda noted the cost is less than what the public is charged but the "profit" helps offset the wear and tear on the copy machines and future replacement. Robinson no longer requests this as an agenda item.

Set Special and regular meeting dates: action item (*5 minutes*)

The regular meeting for September in Pinehurst has been moved from the 15th to the 13th, 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm

Adjournment: action item

McCrea moved to adjourn at 5:05 pm

M, C – McCrea

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Rodda, Janelle Sells

Calendar of events:

15 Sep 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Pinehurst
20 Oct 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Post Falls
17 Nov 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Post Falls
15 Dec 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Post Falls

Please let us know if you need auxiliary aids or services to enjoy our libraries. This includes providing a sign language interpreter, assistive listening devices, or print materials in a digital format. We can also modify programs, services, or activities, within reasonable limits. Please request these services through Randy Zepeda, ADA Coordinator, preferably 15 days in advance, but no later than 72 hours before the event.

Phone: 208-773-1506 ext. 329

Email: ADAcoordinator@communitylibrary.net

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