

Community Library Network
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday 27 January 2022
Post Falls Library Meeting Room 2

2:00 – 5:00 pm

We Empower Discovery

Agenda

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm

Roll call: Board Trustees present: Katie Blank, Vanessa Robinson, Judy Meyer, Rachelle Ottosen, Regina McCrea
Treasurer: Michele Veale
Staff Present: Amy Rodda, Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller, Janelle Sells
Guest Speaker: Tom Lien, Community Library Network Foundation

Public Comment

Speakers must live within the District.

Speakers must state name and address and speak for no more than 5 minutes.

Blank amended speaking time to 3 minutes. She noted that we are gathered to listen and be respectful of speakers. Please address the Board, not the audience. All are welcome to stay for the duration of the meeting.

- Lis Worcester - She commented on some extremely dangerous books in the library, shared a handout regarding transgender hormone therapy, and talked about the book, "I am Jazz". She quoted studies that noted that boys' and girls' brains are not different. Worcester stated that the narration from the book is all lies. She also quoted from Idaho Code.
- Marianna Cochran – commented that 3 minutes is not enough. Idaho has a crisis of confused and distraught kids. Cochran noted the percentage of suicides and attempted suicides, a 50% increase. The CDC conducted a national study regarding those that attempted suicide, how many admitted to sleeping with a member of the same sex, and those identifying as lesbian, gay, or bisexual. The Community Library Network is a taxpayer funded agency and the Board of Trustees are obligated to protect the community.
- Steven Hemmings – A local pastor and was pleased to come forward and speak. He is aware and shocked of a program that sexualizes teens to the LGBTQ+ community is at the library. He presented a petition signed by members of his church and other community members to request a clause be added to the programming policy that the library will not promote the sexualization of minors. He left the petition for the Board to review.

Foundation overview *(10 minutes)*

- Tom Lien, Community Library Network Foundation, Treasurer. Lien introduced himself. He has been with the Foundation for just over 3 years. There are currently only two members on the Foundation. He discussed that there is just over \$28,000 available. Last year only \$5100 in income was received. The Foundation visited the libraries to see what they needed that the Foundation could support. They would like to help support more at Harrison, Athol, and Spirit Lake. They have a list of projects they will be doing for these three libraries. Donations generally have restrictions and/or requests of how the donor wishes to have the money spent. Fundraising events include Lyrics for Libraries (held at the Rathdrum

community center) and Trivia Night at the Library (held at the Post Falls library). Lien has had requests to hold another Trivia Night. He is seeking more members of the public to volunteer to join the Foundation Board. An example of library support was funding the purchase of Playaway audiobooks for hospital patients at the Kellogg hospital.

Lien left the meeting at 2:57 pm

Consent agenda: action item (*10 minutes*)

Minutes of the regular meeting of 17 December

Minutes of the CIN meeting of November 2021

December CIN Financial Statements

Community Library December 2021 reports

- Meyer commented that she was pleased that names were added to Board reports. She asked if there are calendar dates for Board training yet. The IT Department is still working to set up the Board with the multi-factor email authorization.
- McCrea enjoyed the Board reports and the pictures. Noted 4 corrections for meeting minutes of December 16, 2021:
 - Page 1 under Marci Clark comments: "ready"
 - Page 2 under Marianna Cochran comments: "meetings"
 - Page 3 under Jennifer Craft's presentation: "opened" and "Recording"
 - Page 4: Spell out acronyms for PLA, ILA, ALA, and PNLA

McCrea moved to accept the consent agenda with changes noted

M, C - McCrea

Community Library Network November 2021 & December 2021 financial statements: action item (*10 minutes*)

- November Income statement includes the corrected percentages at the bottom of page 2, line 79. Meyer requests the document be labeled with "corrected" and note or highlight what correction was made.
- Robinson was concerned that line 23 for the December Income Statement was not accurate in the percentage. Year to date Total Salaries and Benefits is correct at 24.6%. VEBA Benefits is paid on an annual basis, so the line looks mostly expended.
- McCrea commented that December's statement confirmed the need for carryforward.
- Robinson moved to accept the corrected November 2021 Income Statement and the December 2021 Financial statements.

M, C – Robinson

Circulation Statistics: December (*5 minutes*)

- Rodda noted that December was a quieter month. We are still comparing to COVID numbers and looking for ways to get new cardholders.

Director's report (*10 minutes*)

- Rodda is pleased to announce that we had an internal hire for the Hayden manager position. A supervisor from Post Falls has been promoted to manager for Hayden. Staffing continues to be difficult due to COVID. Athol needed to be closed for 3 days in January due to staffing shortages. Meyer noted that COVID in southern Idaho has caused a library to limit open hours to 3 hours. We have received three citizens request for materials reconsideration. There are three to four staff members on the committee to review each request. Ottosen noted that other libraries can turn around a decision in a couple weeks and that the district response of 30 days should be shorter. Rodda noted that due to the limited number of items available for staff review, additional time is

needed to properly review an item request. She does not want to make a rushed decision. Meyer requested that Rodda note upcoming issues in the Directors Report. Robinson praised Nick Madsen's recent programs, especially the "Some Disassembly Required".

Attorney discussion: action item (*5 minutes*)

- Caitlin Kling with Lake City Law, the District's attorney is leaving the practice and is turning over her clients to Katharine Brereton. The district has worked with Brereton in the past. Rodda recommended that the Board select Brereton with Lake City Law as the district's attorney. McCrea is favorable of Brereton and Lake City Law. Meyer knows of Brereton and favors using her as the district attorney. Ottosen does not have enough information about Brereton to support or oppose her.

Meyer moves to accept Brereton of Lake City Law to be the district attorney.

M, C – Meyer, Ottosen abstained

Break from 2:57 pm to 3:03 pm

Strategic planning discussion: action item (*25 minutes*)

- Rodda presented the Memorandum of Agreement from Library Strategies. Ottosen emailed, and Rodda forwarded, her concerns regarding Library Strategies engaging in diversity, inclusivity, and promotion of LGBTQ+. She feels they are pushing leftist partisan politics. Robinson wondered if we could work with the consultants to help guide what studies are appropriate for our community. Rodda noted that Library Strategies has worked with a variety of libraries. McCrea does not understand why the use of terms such as diversity and inclusivity automatically makes it a leftist, partisan agenda. Blank stated that although our community is very homogenous, a public library is to serve all our community. Meyer noted that diversity to her includes rural versus urban. She wants to see what the citizens of our community want. McCrea noted her objection to Libraries Thrive - the amount of time the proposal had "I" and that the final product would just be a pretty graphic. Blank noted Library Strategies had the strongest form for obtaining community input. Meridian Library had used Library Strategies. Rodda checked references from other library directors and board members regarding Library Strategies. She stated that it is possible to make amendments to the agreement. Robinson asked if the Board could have some questions asked during community input sessions. The steering committee will include some staff, board members, members of the public, and community partners. Blank noted that while there is a lot of staff involvement, this process is a collaborative activity with staff and the Board.

McCrea moved to select Library Strategies as the consultant for the next strategic plan consistent with their Memorandum of Agreement.

M, C -McCrea, Ottosen opposed

Programming policy draft discussion: action item (*30 minutes*)

- Rodda sent the two suggested additions to the policy draft dated December 16, 2021, to the attorney for review. Referencing the "Purpose and Philosophy" section, Ottosen stated that the Rainbow Squad knowingly discriminates against all other participants. She also said the library should not have programs that would be purposely offensive to anyone. Ottosen also wants background checks to be conducted for all children's presenters. Rodda notes that library staff are always present for the duration when presenters are conducting programs. Blank asked if the policy could require staff to be present at all children's programs. Ottosen wants to add a bullet point under "Guidelines": "All people that will be presenting children's programs to have a passing background check". Rodda suggested "all outside people presenting children's programs must complete and pass a background check conducted through the library in the past year". Meyer wondered how much background checks

were. Rodda noted that the average cost is \$75 per background check. Meyer said the Humanities council may have a list of presenters with passing background checks.

- Robinson wanted to clarify that her bullet point #4 would not abolish programs but change the parameters of a program. Rodda noted the district has a variety of programs that are geared to specific audiences but that all are welcome to attend: Dungeon and Dragons, Homeschoolers, Hard of Hearing, etc. Like all programs, Rainbow Squad states in the description what the program target audience is. Registration for any program is to help identify the number of participants for capacity and craft and snack supplies needed. McCrea noted that this policy is not an island and must be read in conjunction with all district policies and with the Idaho Commission for Libraries. Ottosen says that promoting sexual practices to teens is against the Idaho Constitution and we should not be offering a sex club at the library. She states that we can censor this type of material from minors that to allow the program is to promote it. Rodda stated that we are not having a "sex club". It is demoralizing to staff to keep repeating inaccurate and inflammatory information about what happens at Rainbow Squad. Teens are getting together to eat snacks, play games and do crafts. Sex is not ever a topic of discussion, and the program is supervised by staff the entire time. Blank asked how many teen programs are offered. Rodda said there are 25 to 30 offered per month. Robinson would like to see all programs list who the target audience, remove labels and make programs available to all.

- The attorney stated that including bullet points #4 and #5 under "The Library will not provide:" section will put the library in legal jeopardy. Meyer noted that a program title and what actually occurs at the program are two different things.

- McCrea stated that Article 3 Section 24 (Promotion of temperance and Morality) of the Idaho constitution has symbolic significance only and is not enforceable. Title 18 is the criminal code and is not related to the purpose of the library. She wants to go on record that she does not think any of the librarians are committing a crime. The criminal code is used for when crimes are committed.

- Meyer noted that there is avenue within this policy for members of the public to request a program for reconsideration. She would not like to continue spending tax-payer money for attorney reviews. McCrea states that the petition from Pastor Hemmings relates to the policy and should be reviewed by all board members.

- Ottosen requested to change #5 to: Programs that promote obscenity or are harmful to minors, as such are a contributing factor to crime, juvenile crime, and also a basic factor in impairing the ethical and moral development of our youth.

- Robinson requests to remove bullet point #4. Ottosen requests to remove Robinson's name under #4 and replace it with Ottosen.

- Blank suggests changes and additions to the policy be presented to the attorney for review.

- McCrea expressed her dismay at Ottosen's antagonistic attitude and her disregard for what the purpose of the library is. McCrea expressed that Ottosen is unfit to serve as a trustee.

Meyer moved to remove #4 and #5 suggestions from the 12-16-21 draft policy per attorney opinion date December 2, 2021. McCrea added that since this is still a draft policy, no motion necessary. Meyer withdrew her motion.

Consensus of the Board to have policy draft with additional suggestions reviewed by attorney.

Ottosen moved to extend the meeting to 5:30 pm

M, C - Ottosen

The director's COVID-19 emergency authorization: action item (*15 minutes*)

- This authorization is not necessarily a policy but was recorded in minutes of April 2020. This was directly related to COVID. Rodda recommends a shorter time than 15 days to bring the Board together for emergency situations. She recommends a policy that is broader, covering a variety of emergency situations should be developed. Ottosen suggested rescinding the policy. By consensus, the authority will remain in place until a broader policy is developed and implemented.

Trustee Continuing Education (*15 minutes*)

ICRMP training

- Blank would like to bring in Jim McNall from ICRMP to a Board meeting for government training. Rodda will coordinate with McNall for a training time.

Public Library Association (PLA) Conference

- Conference sessions at the conference this year are geared toward staff training. Only one to two classes are targeted to Board members. Ottosen contacted PLA and was told that the conference would be great for trustees. Cost is approximately \$1500 to \$1700 per person. Conference attendance requirements include vaccination and/or a negative COVID test as well as wearing a mask during the conference. Meyer noted that there are three sessions that might be good for a trustee but only one on each day: making the cost for trustees over \$500 per session. Rodda will investigate what virtual components may be offered. The vaccine and/or negative test is a requirement of the convention center. The mask mandate is Oregon law.

Reconsideration of fines discussion (*5 minutes*)

- Blank reminded the Board of the TED Talk presentation staff gave the Board regarding the reason for going fine free. She noted the current materials check-out period and blocking of accounts had been the most successful in getting her to return her books. Robinson would listen to the fine-free presentation but would also like to hear from those with the opposite opinion. Staff will look for current information regarding fine-free and how it is working.

Public Comment policy discussion (*10 minutes*)

- Public Comment Policy
 - What is stated on the agenda differs slightly from the policy. Blank would like to reduce the time to three minutes. Robinson noted that she does not get any more information during five minutes than she does with three minutes. McCrea suggests giving name and home library. Blank would like to use "community" instead of home library. Staff will bring back a revised draft policy.
- Filming board meetings
 - There has been requests from both public and staff to record the meetings. Meetings could be live-streamed or recorded and posted afterwards. Meyer talked about North Idaho College working to broadcast their meetings. It was a positive experience. Rodda noted we have some equipment now. The proposed reassignment of carryforward would purchase additional equipment. Currently, we can provide Teams links for virtual meeting attendance. Staff can investigate the ability to record the meetings and bring back an economic and logistic assessment. Ottosen noted that it would help with transparency.

Legislative updates (*2.5 minutes*) – No discussion

Community announcements (*2.5 minutes*) – No discussion

Discussion of future agenda requests (The board will decide via consensus whether these items will be moved to a future agenda) (*5 minutes*)

- Request from Ottosen regarding library access
 - Ottosen would like a roll call vote regarding minors having unrestricted access to LGBTQ/sexual materials. McCrea does not agree this should be on the agenda as it is contrary to the purpose of the library. Blank noted that limited access is against the advice of the attorney. A trustee can request a roll call vote on any action item on the agenda. Minutes note any abstentions or opposition to any vote. Ottosen withdrew her request.

- Request from Ottosen regarding library highlights
 - No discussion

Set Special and regular meeting dates: action item (*5 minutes*) – No discussion

Adjournment: action item
 Robinson moved to adjourned at 5:32 pm
 M, C - Robinson

Respectfully submitted,
 Amy Rodda, Janelle Sells

Calendar of events:

15 Feb 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Post Falls
17 Mar 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Hayden
21 Apr 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Athol

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: ADAcordinator@communitylibrary.net

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