

**Community Library Network  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday 16 February 2023  
Post Falls 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, Regina McCrea, Judy Meyer, Rachelle Ottosen, Vanessa Robinson  
Staff: Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller, Janelle Sells, Michelle Fansler, Jennifer Craft

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.

- Betsy Kovatch, Post Falls – She asked to not allow board members personal agendas regulate others freedom of choice. She spoke about her children’s love of reading. It is important to have books on the shelves that youth can relate to. Board members should adhere to ethical standards and serve the community as a whole.
- Sammy Randazzo, Coeur d’Alene – She is concerned about a group of people forcing their beliefs on others. She is concerned that HB 139 would increase government oversight.
- Marty Modance, Post Falls – He quoted from the book Identical. He supervised child molesters in his career. Predators groom children. Library materials are guides for predators. There is no First Amendment right to grooming or molesting children.
- Larry Almeida, Hayden – He noted there are ways to address materials that some people may feel are inappropriate.
- Lynne Pursel, Post Falls – She asked who is in charge of purchasing. How do libraries find these materials. Why is taxpayer money being used to corrupt children. It is not censorship to be discerning about the purchase of materials. Keep libraries free of pornography.
- David Reilly, Post Falls – He went into the library and pulled books off the shelf today. He quoted from the various books. The books are not appropriate for children under 18.
- Theresa Birkett, Post Falls – She enjoys using the library. She read from the ALA Bill of Rights. She thanked the board for their hard work. She also quoted the Golden Rule for Trustees regarding not voicing opposition after a policy is approved.
- Emily Christopherson, Post Falls – She thanked the library for the many programs available for children. She stated that the focus on books misses the bigger picture. She referenced some of the books on the list of 700+ books that are being presented as harmful to minors.
- Marianna Cochran, Rathdrum – She noted citizen comments from past meetings. Materials being challenged are from the children’s section, not the adult section – but minors can check out books from any section. She also noted pornographic passages from teen books quoted during other meetings.

- Kathy Jones, Post Falls – She is a children’s book author. She talked about a book she read when she was young. She read from Gender Queer. She noted that Gender Queer is the most banned and challenged book in the nation. Children do not have the reasoning ability to process trauma. These books traumatize children.
- Charity Joy, Hauser – She addressed the Board on behalf of the communities’ hard working men. These men and their spouses entrust the Board to uphold the prevailing community standards of reflecting the communities’ values. They want strong, thriving libraries without pornography. Vulgar and obscene materials are being offered and promoted to vulnerable and impressionable children.
- Tom Hanley, Post Falls – He believes some Board members are misinformed or cowards for allowing obscene materials in the library. He noted several sections of the Idaho Code about obscene materials. With the loopholes in the Idaho Code, harmful materials are available for children. The Board’s job is to create sound a policy especially for the protection of children.
- Jeff Lewis, Post Falls – He quoted from the Coeur d’Alene press. He quoted from the book Dead End. He noted that publishers are promoting harmful materials for minors.
- Suzanne Kearney, Post Falls – She quoted from the Materials Selection Policy. She quoted from a couple books checked out by her daughter. Inter-library loans are a loophole that allows harmful materials into the hands of children. Please add “informed consent” by parents for minors wishing to check out explicit material.
- Michelle Lippert, Post Falls – She noted that the tone of public meetings has changed in the last several years. She talked about a book that is on the list to be removed from the library. She noted that everyone has their own interpretation of art. Literature is art. Please keep a diverse collection that represents this diverse community.
- Kenny Moore, Hayden – He talked about his childhood and reading books. He noted that the books on the list of harmful materials had been on display at Hayden until the day of the board meeting. He talked about a meeting that the public were not allowed to join. Do not allow pornography in the library.
- Heather Greenman, Post Falls- She noted that the library said no materials have been moved as result of the revised Materials Selection Policy. She quoted from a book available to children as young as 12. She noted that sexual predators use pornography to groom children for sexual exploitation. Stop giving pornography to kids.
- Josiah Mannion, Coeur d’Alene – He noted his personal background. He said that those asking to remove books are linked to patriarchal white Christian nationalists. Anyone who deviates from their idea of normative should be placed on a lower hierarchy level. They say they are not banning books since the materials are still available for purchase, but only if someone can afford to buy the book. This undermines the purpose of libraries to be open for everyone.
- Anita Dupzyk, Rathdrum – She quoted several verses from the Bible.
- Daniel Frye, Post Falls - He commented about subjectivism as noted from an earlier public speaker. Everyone has their own version of morality so why should it matter what one person says versus what another says. There are two opposing viewpoints. One group is arguing for moral standards and one group is arguing for freedom. He does not believe they are mutually exclusive.
- Jane Clark, Hayden - She talked about her background. She is for the freedom to raise children the way she wants and is opposed to anything that restricts a parent’s right to choose what is best for their own kids. Restricting freedom for some may result in restricting freedom for all. The library exists to expand knowledge of all viewpoints and represent all members of the community. She does not think that the books create child molesters.

- Scott Scofield, Post Falls - He quoted several verses from the Bible. He does not see the benefit of having harmful materials available for children. He talked about his childhood trauma.
- Nina Beesley, Rathdrum – She asked the Board how they feel about being responsible for distributing pornography to children. The First Amendment does not allow for distributing pornography to children. United Families International produced a booklet to help legislators draft policies. Where harmful materials are found, crime increases exponentially. Other people’s freedom to read interferes with her freedom to have life and liberty and to keep her children safe from crime.
- David Fry, Post Falls – He asked why the library is beholden to the ALA. ALA does not pay for the books in the library, the taxpayers do. Stop listening to ALA and listen to the people who live here, listen to both sides. Have sections set aside for LGBTQ materials. There is a way to have all the materials available for everyone.

Break from 3:18 to 3:27 pm

Post Falls Annual Report – Jennifer Craft (*20 minutes*)

- Jennifer Craft talked about the challenging year. Her theme this year is Always Be Humble and Kind. She introduced her staff. There was an increase in meeting room use and programs have really rebounded. Craft talked about some of the programs and events. She discussed the statistics related to Post Falls. The fourth issue of the teen publishing program was just published. She provided copies for the trustees. Post Falls employees helped staff a booth at the job fair and the North Idaho Fair. She reviewed the many community partners working with the Post Falls library. Juvenile material checkouts have increased significantly. Shelving has been moved around to be more ADA compliant and improve access. The website has been improved to highlight a variety of services. There are over 100 videos on the District’s YouTube channel with over 45,000 views. She thanked the Board for moving forward with the compensation recommendations. Craft talked about training opportunities including All-Staff Day and the Public Library Association conference. Changes to the children’s room are still in progress.

Craft left the meeting at 3:47 pm

Consent agenda: action item (*10 minutes*)

Minutes of the regular meeting of 19 January  
 Minutes of the budget hearing of 19 January  
 Minutes of the special meeting of 23 January  
 Minutes of the special meeting of 2 February  
 Minutes of the special meeting of 2 February  
 Minutes of the special meeting of 3 February  
 Minutes of the special meeting of 3 February  
 January CIN Financial Statements

- McCrea moved to accept the consent agenda as presented.

M, C - McCrea

Community Library Network January 2023 financial statements: action item (*10 minutes*)

- Meyer moved to accept the January 2023 financial statements.

M, C - Meyer

FY 2023 Budget (*5 minutes*)

- The approved amended budget for FY’23 was presented.

Community Library Network January 2023 reports (10 minutes)

- Ottosen noted some of the programs that she was pleased to see happening. Meyer enjoyed reading about the inter-generational activities.

Circulation Statistics January (5 minutes)

- Miller-Escarfuller noted some of the significant increases in circulation, internet and computer usage, new patrons, people coming into the libraries, and adult program attendance.

Annual report (5 minutes)

- Miller-Escarfuller reviewed the report noting that it is a snapshot of the year's accomplishments. Robinson is very pleased with the document. Meyer liked the map. She would like the next report to have some financial statistics added. Miller-Escarfuller stated the document is at each library for distribution and has been posted to the website.

Director's report (5 minutes)

- Miller-Escarfuller noted there are seven books in the process of being reconsidered. She noted upcoming staff training. She discussed the large amount of work that needs to be done in order to continue running the library.

Regular Meeting Location discussion (10 minutes)

- Miller-Escarfuller noted public comments are a limiting factor for holding meetings in the smaller libraries. She proposed changing the meetings to times when the smaller libraries are closed. Robinson feels it is important to go to the other libraries. Meyer asked if there are locations to hold the public comment portion of the meeting then continue the business portion in the library. By consensus, the Board has adjusted meeting times for the April, May, June, July, and September regular meetings.

McCrea moved to extend the meeting until 5:30 pm

Trustee continuing education (5 minutes) – No discussion

Facilities updates (5 minutes) – No discussion

Legislative updates (5 minutes) – No discussion

Community announcements (5 minutes) - No discussion

Public comment overview (5 minutes) – Per consensus, this agenda item was moved up to after the Post Falls Annual Report

- Meyer noted the comments from the January meeting. She talked about the changes to the libraries from when she was young. Meyer asked how many books of the collection are in the children's section. She also asked if there are ways to limit children's checkout abilities. Miller-Escarfuller noted that some libraries have cards that limit what materials minors can check out. Robinson noted that comments from the public are that there are materials within juvenile materials that are inappropriate. Ottosen believes juvenile cards would be a step in the right direction. McCrea stated that the trustees are volunteers and are not trained librarians. She noted some accusatory comments from the public directed at library staff. She believes in protecting children. She wants staff to investigate a children's card to limit what a child can check out. McCrea read one of the books that has been presented for reconsideration and she agrees that it would not be appropriate for her child. She would like staff to investigate options for creating another section of materials for middle readers. McCrea also would like to review the Materials Selection policy and suggested removing challenged materials from the shelf.

Miller-Escarfuller feels the juvenile-only card is the best way to move forward but will take time. She noted that moving books to a different section would not make much difference in the smaller libraries where the next section may only be one shelf over due to lack of space. Blank would like a special meeting to discuss a juvenile only card policy and material content. Robinson is in favor of reviewing policy.

Executive session: (Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(a): To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need: Director recruitment update – June Garcia *(60 minutes)*)

McCrea moved to go into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(a) at 4:37 pm

Blank – Aye  
McCrea – Aye  
Meyer – Aye  
Ottosen – Aye  
Robinson – Aye

McCrea moved to come out of executive session at 5:28 pm

Blank – Aye  
McCrea – Aye  
Meyer – Aye  
Ottosen – Aye  
Robinson – Aye

Robinson moved to the extend the meeting to 6:00 pm

M, C – Robinson

McCrea moved to go back into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(a) at 5:29 pm

Blank – Aye  
McCrea – Aye  
Meyer – Aye  
Ottosen – Aye  
Robinson – Aye

McCrea moved to come out of executive session at 5:46 pm

Blank – Aye  
McCrea – Aye  
Meyer – Aye  
Ottosen – Aye  
Robinson – Aye

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

- Personnel Policy manual (request from Ottosen) – will be scheduled after new Director is hired

Set Special and regular meeting dates: *(10 minutes)*

- Special meeting scheduled for February 28, 2023, at 11:00 am

Adjournment: action item

McCrea moved to adjourn at 6:02 pm

M, C - McCrea

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller, Janelle Sells

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Calendar of events:

17 Feb 2023	Special Meeting	3:30 – 8:00	Hayden
18 Feb 2023	Special Meeting	3:30 – 8:00	Hayden
16 Mar 2023	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Hayden
20 Apr 2023	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Athol
18 May 2023	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Rathdrum

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](mailto:ADAcordinator@communitylibrary.net)

The Community Library Network does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its programs, services, activities or employment practices. The Library Network has a policy on ADA compliance and the complete policy is available for review upon request. In addition, a grievance procedure is available to resolve complaints. If you need this notice in large print or Braille, let us know.