

**Community Library Network
SPECIAL Board of Trustees Meeting
FRIDAY, September 8, 2023
HARRISON LIBRARY**

9:00AM – Noon

We Empower Discovery

Agenda

Call to Order Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am

Roll Call Trustees: Katie Blank, Tom Hanley, Rachelle Ottosen, Tim Plass, Vanessa Robinson
Staff: Alexa Eccles, Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment *(30 minutes)*

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.

- Lori Dombrowski, Harrison. She spoke about the library being an essential part of the community's activities, offering essential services like Wi-Fi and being a place to gather.
- Rich Dombrowski, Harrison. He spoke about being a 20-year resident and after losing population for 100 years is poised now to grow.
- Wanda Irish, Harrison. Resident and Mayor of Harrison spoke about how the library is important to the city and to her personally.
- Mary Byrne, Harrison. She has been an educator for 36 years and watched every Board meeting. Selection responsibilities rest with parents. The Board is micromanaging. Cuts hurt kids.
- Glendora DeSantis, Harrison. She has lived in the community for 6 years, and the library is important and provides services such as interlibrary loan, children's programs, and DVDs.
- Courtney Brown, Harrison. She just moved to the area, uses Wi-Fi, homeschool mom and was previously a high school teacher. Choices should be ours.
- Joseph Prophet, Harrison. Bigger communities have resources. Restricting access is up to parents. The Board's job is policy setting. Let the staff do the necessary work.
- Ty Byrne, Harrison. He has been an area resident for 20 years. The library is a hub and a gathering place, social interaction, safe place. Staff are kind, helpful, and are proud of the work they do.
- Kathy Rees, Harrison. She has a business degree and is a business owner. Homeschools her 8-year-old granddaughter that reads at a 6th grade level. Recommends growing the library, doing things that bring more life in, and raising money for the library.
- Will Butler, Harrison. He lives within the city and was introduced to libraries by his mother. He feels comfortable in libraries, they are welcoming, and he can be himself. Children are smiling and it is a meeting place.
- David Greenwood, Harrison. His mother dragged him to the library, he now has a son. 6 years ago, he was in awe, besides books to become involved in activities. Begs Board to keep programs, there is no replacement.

Point of Order - Trustee Blank. From last meeting. Blank is concerned it is going to happen again at this meeting. Blank stated she was very concerned about this point of order. Blank asked for it to be noted that she was not allowed to bring up a point of order. Chair Ottosen made a note.

Board Procedures/Robert's Rules Resolution: Action Item *(15 minutes)*

- Chair Ottosen stated the purpose of Robert's Rules resolution is to stop talking over and attempt to thwart the will of the Board majority. Civility is required to be a better board. The back of the 3rd page, Resolution. Use Article III, Section 6. Initiate 1) obtaining the floor and 2) address the chair avoid using names.

Point of Order - Trustee Blank. Is this discussion and then we will look at resolution? Is this open for Discussion. Blank has several questions. Ottosen stated, yes, it is open for discussion. Ottosen stated she looked up in 2022, there were 4 procedures, 3 took 10 minutes, one was allotted 5 minutes. Hoping 15 minutes would be more than sufficient. Previously done by consensus.

- Trustee Robinson stated the Board is already using Robert's Rules for small boards. What is the meaning of resolution? Trustee Plass thought it was a good idea to recognize a time to speak and not compete. Trustee Blank stated she was concerned that everyone should be given the chance to speak once. Instead of twice. It is the responsibility of the Chair. Trustee Hanley was given a handout on his first day that he has been following. Hanley is not interested in being too stiff and rigid but wants better discussion. Trustee Blank expressed the Board needs to slow down, asking members to speak, sometimes the Director is not included. Trustee Hanley stated the Director is a non-voting member. Trustee Robinson stated in spirit the Director is part of the Board. Trustee Blank stated silencing staff has never been done.
- By consensus, the Board will revisit at the end of February 2024.

Discussion of CLNs Insurance Policy: Action Item *(20 minutes)*

- Trustee Robinson asked if CLN was being singled out by ICRMP. Trustee Blank asked what the red flags are or concerns that have been pointed out. She recalled that the Board refused to speak to ICRMP Counsel relating to an employee issue, the Board has refused to cooperate with ICRMP.
- Director Eccles reviewed what all members agree to in the Board signed Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). JPA states members will cooperate with ICRMP legal counsel, notify people of claims, keep informed of purpose activities like policies and job descriptions.
- By consensus, the Director will start the ICRMP appeal process and find out if extending the library's current policy by one month is possible.

Tour of Harrison Library *(10 minutes)*

- The Board toured the facility and the meeting reconvened at 10:41am.

Discussion of Materials Selection Policy *(50 minutes)*

- Trustee Blank looked at the first part, which was worked on last time that changed the section on responsibility. Progression is good and she appreciates the people that worked on that.
- Chair Ottosen, reading from Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) Trustee Manual; under responsibilities, "The Library Director implements policies set by the Board." She would like to delete the second sentence and replace it with a quote from page 21. Trustee Plass feels it is a better sentence. Trustee Blank does not want to approve a policy without seeing it. She would like to see the draft with strike through lines and the added sentence. Director Eccles said quote is from the

orientation – bulleted list in the ICfL Trustee Manual. She referred Board to entire section on Board's role on collection which includes the Freedom to Read and Intellectual Freedom in the ICfL Trustee Manual. Chair Ottosen stated we are sending it to the attorney to review it, the draft will be in the Board packet. Chair Ottosen asked if the Board has consensus. Majority of Board members agreed.

Point of Order - Trustee Blank. No consensus. Plass, Hanley and Ottosen said yes.

- Trustee Robinson cautioned that the government moves slowly for a reason.
- Trustee Plass campaigned on wanting to make quick changes, remove intellectual freedom and any reference to ALA. Policy needs a lot more work. Plass wants to get something done quickly, like to add second bullet "excluding recommendations from ALA and affiliates." Does not want to rely on book recommendation lists, wants added "excluding recommendation lists from ALA and affiliates." Does not want staff to be using ALA recommendations.
- Director Eccles explained part of the reason the process is slow and thorough is that after a policy is adopted, changes are implemented by staff. Clear directions for staff are necessary. The Caldecott and Newberry awards are ALA awards, does that mean staff cannot purchase award winning books? Taking the time now and going through the process and answering questions is preferred over making a change and then coming back and making another change. It lacks consistency for staff.

Point of Order – Blank. Every person is a trustee and speaks once. Not what is meant as debate. Everyone takes the same amount of time to speak. Chair directing the meeting not using it as a time to make more comments than everyone else. I believe some items may violate Idaho Code, the Idaho Constitution, and the Federal Constitution.

- Trustee Plass was not certain why there would be confusion, staff should not use ALA lists. If the same book is on another list, staff could still do it. No more books bought that ALA is recommending.
- Trustee Blank said the issue is bringing us into legal issues. To say we will not be purchasing – would that be censorship? That sounds like censorship, a huge red flag issue. Intellectual Freedom, choice is an individual matter "for adults" was added. Blank cited Idaho Statute, Title 32, Chapter 1010 Idaho Parental Rights Act and Title 32, Chapter 1013 Interference with Fundamental Parental Rights Restricted. If we are planning to limit choices to minors, as a public library we do not act "in loco parentis". If we are limiting choice to minors, we may be violating the Idaho Code. Children have First Amendment rights. Taking out the rest of the paragraph, we are saying no to the First Amendment. Intellectual Freedom is the First Amendment, which would be a huge red flag. Freedom to Read and Library Bill of Rights, continue to support First Amendment rights. These rights are Fundamental to ethics for public libraries. Staying within the First Amendment and taking out statements that support it, what will it be replaced with?
- Director Eccles read from the Idaho Commission for Libraries definition of censorship. "Censorship is the suppression of ideas and information that certain persons – individuals, groups, or government officials – find objectionable or dangerous. It is no more complicated than someone saying, "Don't let anyone read this book, or buy that magazine, or view that film, because I object to it!"
- Trustee Hanley stated he wants books purchased to comply with the updated policy.
- Trustee Blank stated what the Director read fits censorship. Cautioning this is dangerous territory, the First Amendment. We must be very careful.
- Chair Ottosen stated we do not have consensus.

Point of Order - Blank. Blank brought up Intellectual Freedom and wants to discuss it next. Robinson stated this policy was changed last year. She requested an explanation for why it is important to change it now. Chair Ottosen stated her reasons were stated at a previous meeting. Plass offered his thinking that Intellectual Freedom is a bogus freedom and not part of the First Amendment. Children have different First Amendment rights than adults. He wants the American Library Association removed. Hanley stated removing this language is not changing the law and does not take those freedoms away. Blank reiterated what was expressed that you can take this out but what it shows is that this library is not committed to Intellectual Freedom. We will be limiting the choice for children. Idaho Statute, Title 33, Chapter 2702 Public Library Districts (6) Public library services "shall meet standards established by the board of library commissioners." The Freedom to Read and the Library Bill of Rights is the standard set by the board of library commissioners. Our library should meet this requirement and if we do not we are opening ourselves up to legally violating the Idaho Code and Federal Law.

Discussion to disaffiliate with ALA and its subsidiaries (*50 minutes*)

- Plass asked if ALA was Marxist? Plass stated the members elected a president that is Marxist. ALA promotes the book 1619, which is clearly unamerican. Intellectual Freedom is not part of the First Amendment. Robinson stated this is a tough one and she does not fully understand the breadth of ALA. Asked if it would be beneficial if we wrote a letter of concern to ALA. She is reluctant to throw the whole system out as there must be good parts. Robinson asked are we saying staff no longer need specialized training and ALA approved curriculum.
- Chair Ottosen responded she did not believe anyone was saying we cannot hire librarians that have gone through ALA training. There are other nationwide library associations staff can receive training from. She wanted the board to focus on the Cambell County, Wyoming statement. The last sentence, CLN policies will be adjusted. Before that add: "or promote ALA agendas and campaigns such as the so-called banned books week." The reason for the addition is that Ottosen stated she had looked at banned book week. All the books are sexually explicit materials that frequently seem aimed at minors and she does not think that is appropriate.
- Blank also has concerns with ALA and would prefer they were more centralists. Blank supports writing a letter to ALA. Our job is to provide access to information in a neutral fashion. Freedom to Read was adopted in 1953 and the Bill of Rights was adopted in 1939. These documents have been updated to reflect how we receive and access information and ideas today.
- Director Eccles stated 3 different versions have been presented. Each version would have different meanings. The Board should be specific, for example, CLN will not pay for ALA membership or conference attendance.
- No consensus on asking the Director to draft a letter to ALA. Robinson and Blank would like a letter. Hanley and Plass do not want a letter.

Point of Order – Trustee Blank. The board has not put forward a motion. Is the Board sending "the discussion" to counsel?

- Ottosen asked if the short version from Cambell County with the addition of "or promote ALA agendas and campaigns such as the so-called banned books week" was agreed upon. Plass, Hanley and Ottosen said yes. Robinson and Blank said no.
- Ottosen asked if there was a consensus to send this statement to the attorney? The attorney will address any legal concerns and discuss them at the next meeting. Plass, Hanley and Ottosen said yes. Robinson and Blank said no.

Set Special and Regular Meeting Date(s): Action Item(s) (5 minutes)

- Hanley would like to see a Special Meeting to discuss URD rebate and amending the budget.

Hanley moved to extend the meeting by 20 minutes.

M, C - Hanley

- By consensus, the Board will call a special meeting to discuss URD rebate and amend the budget on Friday, 15th. Trustees can attend in person or via video conferencing.

Adjournment: Action Item

Blank moved to adjourn at 11:54am

M, C- Blank

Respectfully submitted,

Alexa Eccles

Calendar of events:

21 Sep 2023	Regular Meeting	9:00 – 12:30	Pinehurst
19 Oct 2023	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:30	Post Falls
16 Nov 2023	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:30	Post Falls
21 Dec 2023	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:30	Post Falls

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Phone: 208-773-1506 ext. 329

Email: ADAcordinator@communitylibrary.net

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