

Community Library Network
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 15 February 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 of Trustees present: Judy Meyer, Vanessa Robinson, Regina McCrea (arrived at 2:01 pm), Rachele Ottosen, Katie Blank
Treasurer: Michele Veale
Staff Present: Amy Rodda, Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller, Janelle Sells, Kari Wilson, Randy Zepeda

Public Comment

Speakers must live within the District.

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

Blank introduced herself. The public library is founded on the First Amendment. Please be respectful and civil to one another. You do not have to live in the District to speak. Please address the Board and not the audience. The Board will not be responding unless to correct misinformation.

- Marianna Cochran – She noted we all agree on the sanctity of First Amendment. Cochran presented and read passages from books for toddlers/pre-readers, juveniles, and young adults. She stated these are insidious propaganda to further harm and indoctrinate children Cochran agrees how important parental oversight is, but everyone has a societal responsibility and moral obligation to protect all children from harm.
- Ann – Ann stated she is shocked to learn that there is a small section of the Board that does not understand the purpose of a public library. To limit and censor books is wrong. Do not take away everyone else's rights. "To pull books from a school library because of the discomfort they create in adults is a recipe for disaster. It erodes the trust young people have in the adults in their lives and pushes them to secrecy... It supports a false idea that there is one version of life that is acceptable." The book, Maus, about the Holocaust, banned but now one of the most requested books.
- Steven Hemming – Recalled the petition he gave the Board at the last meeting and quoted the petitions request. He provided more signatures supporting the petition. He gave a warning to the Board that in the next election, continuing to promote topics that are controversial and political will turn the Board into a partisan board.
- Kara – She was in the Coeur d'Alene library and her daughter picked up a book that she felt was inappropriate while she was right there. Promoting homosexuality is grooming children for the LGBTQ. She quoted from the Title 18 Crimes & Punishment section.

Board Procedures (*10 minutes*)

Timing – Blank has asked staff to time the sections of the agenda to keep the meeting on schedule.

Rotation – Trustees will each have turns to speak in order.

United for Libraries Ethics statement

Blank noted the Idaho Commission for Libraries adheres to the Library Bill of Rights and other ALA principles. The Ethics statement is to help the Board understand how to work together. Blank read the United for Libraries Ethics statement and it is supported by Idaho Commission for Libraries and the American Library Association. Blank stated they are here to serve the entire, diverse community. At the last meeting, it was stated that the library is hosting a sex club for teens. It is slanderous and demoralizing to accuse the staff of this. If it is believed that this is occurring, then it should be reported to the police. McCrea discussed when she became a board member and reviewed the ethics statements, she was asked to adhere to it. It is very much a part of the trustees' duties and responsibilities. Robinson recalls the statement in her binder. She does not recall anyone asking for book burning or censorship. Meyer was glad to have the statement as a great reminder of the responsibility of the Board. She noted some of the bullet points she felt were very important and shared some of her experiences. Veale will bring the statement to every meeting. Ottosen said the ALA is not a non-partisan organization. They promote partisan ideas. She agrees with most of the ethics statements.

Collections Annual Report

- Kari Wilson introduced herself as the Collection Development Librarian. She shared with the Board what the technical services department does and introduced her staff. The Technical Services Department is a dedicated, centralized department supporting the collection. Wilson described the process the library uses to cultivate library materials for the diverse community that the library serves. The department averages over 2400 material items added to the collection every month. Once items are purchased, staff catalog and label materials for use. Collection maintenance is an ongoing process to ensure a good collection. Technical Services is also the main contact for all libraries' supply needs. They also are the hub for the courier service that moves materials throughout the consortium. 100 or more bins, boxes, or bags move through the department daily. Meyer noted the significant number of materials that are shared throughout the consortium. Robinson asked about where the bins are filled. Wilson noted that each library fills bins to be delivered by the courier, but that Hayden is the hub. Veale commented that she really enjoys hearing about the behind-the-scenes departments. Blank asked about the rotating collections that move between our libraries.

Facilities Annual Report

- Randy Zepeda, Facilities Manager, has been with the district for over 10 years. Zepeda discussed how he measures the maintenance needs for facilities and noted some items are very costly. Zepeda provided a list of projects that may occur in the future. Items listed in blue are designated to come from CARRF later. Items listed in red are for the current budget year. Meyer asked about the priority order. McCrea was happy to see the many items to address ADA issues. She also asked about his involvement in the bookmobile and the expansion of the Rathdrum area. The bookmobile is aging, re-evaluation of service needs and appropriate vehicles will take place when it is time to replace the bookmobile. Robinson asked about where the slope at Hayden is located. Rodda noted that staff will bring further details to the Board if the project moves forward. The slope project is to help prevent continued water seepage into the building. Meyer will note her questions for later discussion. Veale would like to have Zepeda return with updates more often. Ottosen asked about the high cost of replacing the bookmobile and Discovery Bus. Zepeda noted the amount is an estimate. Rodda stated there will be evaluation of the vehicles and what services are needed when replacement is necessary. Meyer would like Zepeda to be at the other libraries as the trustee's travel for him to show library specific needs. Blank will look at the agenda to have facilities added as a regular topic.

Consent agenda: action item

Minutes of the regular meeting of 27 January

Minutes of the Budget hearing of 27 January

January CIN Financial Statements

Community Library January 2022 reports

McCrea, Robinson, and Ottosen noted a total of 8 changes needed for the regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2022. It was asked to make changes to the regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2022, have them pulled out of the consent agenda, and brought back next month.

Blank noted one change to the Budget Hearing minutes of January 27, 2022: "...additional carryforward not to for the first four months..."

McCrea moved to accept the consent agenda with changes noted, except for the regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2022, which will be re-presented at the next meeting.

M, C - McCrea

Community Library Network January 2022 financial statements: action item

Robinson moved to accept the January 2022 financial statements

M, C - Robinson

Circulation Statistics: January

Rodda noted that January 2022 was busier than 2021 due to checkouts being conducted curbside. Blank said the Board is open to a different format for presenting statistics.

Director's report

Rodda noted the national up-tick in material reconsideration requests. Two requests have been completed. The book, *George*, received an appeal to reconsider the library's decision to retain the book. Rodda will provide the request, the collection development policy, and all the supporting research for discussion at the March meeting. Rodda also discussed libraries being the centerpiece in law for the First Amendment. A resource document provided by the Idaho Commission for Libraries about book challenges, censorship, and public libraries was given to the Board. McCrea noted other provisions the First Amendment allows. She would like more information about a government's inability to infringe upon citizens amendment rights such as freedom to assemble. Ottosen quoted from the Supreme Court decision, *US v. ALA 2003* "the interest in protecting children from obscene material..." and she is unaware of any ruling allowing children to be exposed to any and all materials. The library, by purchasing some items instead of others, is discriminating. Rodda noted that it is true that we cannot buy everything and use many tools to determine what materials to purchase. Each of our libraries has a designated children's, teen, and adult section. There are no sexually explicit materials in the Children's section of our libraries. There may be themes in some children's materials that parents may prefer to discuss and address with their children first, so we encourage parents to be actively involved in the selection of library materials.

Break from 3:30 pm to 3:40 pm

Programming policy draft discussion: action item

Rodda noted the attorney's response. Bullet point #4 had already been reviewed and no new advice was given. Bullet point #5 was revised and reviewed again. The attorney noted that the language is in line with the obscenity Idaho code 18-15-13. Rodda noted that we currently do not have any programs that would be legally determined as obscene. McCrea asked about the attorney's review of the petition presented to amend the policy. Rodda had asked some clarifying questions of the attorney but has not heard back. Robinson was pleased with the attorney's response regarding bullet point #5. Veale does not find bullet points 4 or 5 necessary. She does like background checks but does not feel they need to be repeated. Ottosen noted that the law firm the district engaged with is not publicly known to be non-partisan. She noted the prior attorney's review of this policy cited cases unrelated to public libraries. McCrea noted that laws must be followed whether

they are in a policy or not. She agrees with Veale that background checks do not need to be repeated on an annual basis. McCrea would not support the policy in its current form. Robinson recalled her time with a school district and how background checks work there. Staff was asked to check with the schools on their policy for background checks. Robinson likes revised bullet #5 and how closely it is tied to the Idaho code. Meyer asked what the age of children for youth programs would fall under the background check requirement. She questioned the number of times a known program presenter must undergo a background and the related costs. She asked if #5 needed to be in the policy since it is already in Idaho code. The attorney just stated the language for the point is fine. Meyer asked to add "under the age 18" to be associated to children's programs and to extend the time for background checks to be conducted by the library to be within the last 3 years. Veale stated that #5 leaves room for interpretation. Ottosen noted that there are exceptions under Idaho Code for schools and libraries. In her individual, adult opinion, all children should be protected and feels that schools and libraries are exploiting the exception. McCrea noted the Criminal code has definitions for terms. She read from Idaho Code Title 18 Chapter 15(14) that defines "harmful to minors" and requirements to meet the definition. McCrea proposes changing bullet point #5 to: "programs that appeal to the prurient interest of minors" and change "external presenters for children's youth programs" and remove #4. Ottosen stated that if language for bullet point #5 is good enough for the state legislature, it should be good enough for the library. McCrea moved to adopt programming policy draft without bullet point #4, change bullet point # 5 to bullet point #4 now stated as "programs that appeal to the prurient interest of minors" and change background check for "youth" programs and be conducted within the last 3 years. Ottosen thought each amendment to the policy would be voted on individually. She is fine with the background check portion of the motion. She disagrees with McCrea's motion to change bullet point #5 to #4 with the revised language. She would like further information regarding attorney Kling's initial policy review. She has a FOIA request that has not been fulfilled. Robinson said that the revised language for the new bullet point #4 sums up the prior version of bullet points #4 and #5. She is fine with McCrea's proposed change. She also likes the changes for the background checks. Meyer believes the revised policy sets the scene for staff to present quality programs. Blank noted the policy being voted on in total is acceptable parliamentary procedure. Ottosen called for a roll call vote.

M, C – McCrea

McCrea – aye

Meyer – aye

Ottosen - nay

Robinson - aye

Strategic planning update

Rodda updated the Board about the preliminary steps with Library Strategies. First step is setting up a steering committee of 8 to 12 members. It includes some Board members, some staff, and members of the public. Focus groups and surveys are part of the groundwork for gathering community input. Meyer would like to suggest that Blank and McCrea be part of the steering committee. There will be many other ways for the full board to participate in the development of the strategic plan. It has been suggested to start with meeting with the steering committee in early March. Robinson is confident in being able to provide input through Blank and McCrea. Ottosen stated that if the strategic plan is using board members with longevity why not save the \$25,000 and continue using the current plan. Blank said the purpose of using the consultants is to provide a bigger picture. Ottosen suggested Robinson for the steering committee. McCrea noted the new strategic plan will be completely different from the old plan. The recommendations for the new strategic plan will be brought to the board for consideration and will still be voted on by the full board.

Trustee Continuing Education

ICRMP training - tabled

PLA Conference

- Rodda presented the cost for the conference and the options for virtual attendance. Blank said most of the presentations look very staff and procedure oriented. Rodda noted some presentations that may be Board focused. McCrea was unclear what presentations and when virtual programs would be available. Virtual attendance costs are \$328. Robinson wondered if it was more beneficial to attend virtually as a group. Meyer noted that not all onsite programs will be offered virtually. Staff have already signed up for the onsite conference. Ottosen said that virtual programs are very difficult to stay engaged. She stated that PLA encouraged her to attend, she would learn a lot, and that she would like to attend the conference in person. Meyer agrees that conferences are good to attend. On a cost analysis basis, Meyer noted there were 3 programs she would want to attend but are offered only one per day. There is budget money for 2 trustees to attend in person. Blank said that if a trustee wants to attend, it should be available. Robinson noted that one third of all virtual programs deal with LGBTQ, BIPOC, inclusion, and diversity and that it does not seem like a good use of library funds for even staff to attend. Meyer noted that programs have a procedural tone instead of a policy point of view. Veale would prefer that staff be the ones to attend. Ottosen said that she has been told she has a lot to learn but feels like the board has been discouraging her from attending. McCrea noted the in-person sessions, and she is confused why Ottosen would want to attend a conference that is very different from how Ottosen has expressed her opposing views to equity, diversity, and inclusion. McCrea is not for or against Ottosen attending. Robinson is in favor of Ottosen attending in person. Meyer stated it is not one she would attend but other board members should feel free to attend and encouraged Ottosen to report back what she learns.

Meyer moved to extend the meeting to 5:30 pm
M, C - Meyer

Public Comment policy discussion

Based on comments from the last board meeting, Rodda presented an updated Public Comment Policy. When updating policies, it is the opportunity to look at other policies and adjust as necessary. McCrea suggested changes including "no personal attacks or disruptions from audience members will be tolerated". Ottosen stated that much of the language in the policy is subjective and difficult to define. She wondered if a time limit would be placed on the amount of time spent on the public comment portion of the agenda. Blank noted at this time, there will no time limit for the public to comment. Ottosen has reconsidered her position on reducing the amount of time from 5 minute to 3 minutes for each speaker. Robinson noted that Blank has been great with public comment during the meeting. She also said that 3 minutes is plenty of time. Ottosen disagrees with adding "disruptions from the audience". Ottosen wants to add "these policies will not be used to present viewpoint discrimination". The policy will be voted on at the next meeting.

Board Meeting procedures

Filming board meetings

Rodda has been working with our IT Coordinator to ensure we have adequate equipment to record the meetings and make them available for later viewing. The recording may be available by request or placed on the website. Meyer would like to ensure that when the board visits other libraries for the meetings, that the time and labor expense for staff does not take away from their primary duties. All trustees are in favor of recording meetings for later viewing.

Legislative updates (*2.5 minutes*) None

Community announcements (*2.5 minutes*) None

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

Request from Ottosen regarding library highlights

- Ottosen would like the library to celebrate fatherhood and motherhood rather than celebrating Pride Month. McCrea says this appears to be operational and not at a board, policy level. Robinson stated that if it was under the board purview, then she would want to vote on it but if it is not board issue, then she is fine with not making it an agenda item. Rodda said that suggestions are always welcome for highlighting national celebrations. Blank stated that this is not a policy issue. She discussed ways that board members could express their concerns when they are not policy issues. Ottosen has rescinded her request.

Set Special and regular meeting dates: action item

Adjournment: action item

Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:34 pm

M, C - Robinson

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Rodda, Janelle Sells

Calendar of events:

17 Mar 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Hayden
21 Apr 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Athol
19 May 2022	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: ADAcoordinator@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.