

**Community Library Network  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday 21 April 2022  
Athol Community Center**

**2:00 – 5:00 pm**

**We Empower Discovery**

Agenda

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

Roll call: Trustees: Katie Blank, Vanessa Robinson, Judy Meyer, Rochelle Ottosen, Regina McCrea  
Treasurer: Michele Veale  
Staff: Amy Rodda, Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller, Janelle Sells, Jill Roche

Public Comment

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

- Jim Powers – Post Falls. Thanked everyone for the good libraries. Libraries are for more than entertainment; they are a source for information. He would like libraries maintain a broad variety of materials to be available to the public.
- Marianna Cochran – Rathdrum. Quoted various studies and publications about police shootings and lack of racial motivation. She shared some statistics about police shootings. She is opposed to the book, Something Happened in Our Town.
- Lis Worcester – Post Falls. Thanked the staff for reading and reviewing the book. The book violates the district policies for materials selection. She quoted from several publications/articles regarding police shooting statistics. American Psychological Association and Magination Press should not be trusted as a quality authority for providing truth for children.
- Laura Vanvorhees – Hayden. Marianna Cochran read Laura's email as her proxy. As a former police officer, she is appalled that this book is available in the library. This book further fuels racial tension. The authors are presenting a leftist agenda and teaching children to fear law enforcement. She wants the book removed from all libraries in Kootenai county.
- Summer Bushnell – Post Falls. She asked if there are other books to balance out the books being objected to. She does not necessarily want the books removed from the library but put in a different section besides the children's area.
- Kara Claridge – Coeur d'Alene. She read from an article by the Idaho Freedom Foundation regarding the legislature cutting funds to the Idaho Commission for Libraries. Read from the pedophilia agenda list. She is concerned about the materials on the bookmobile and the stops at schools.
- Anita Dupzyk – Rathdrum. She noted that most people in the room seemed to be good, tolerant people. Books with pretty covers attract kids and the books may not be what the parent wants to address with their kids. She would like to have a separate section for these books where parents need to be with them.
- Don Eichler – Post Falls. He thinks it is sad that there are so many questionable books in the library. He does not believe a library should have materials about alternative lifestyles.
- Kyla Weems – Post Falls. She works at the library. She discussed her list of favorite, classic books. She talked about a variety of authors, founding fathers, and scientists that would be censored today due to their immoral lifestyle. Censorship is wrong.
- Robert C. – Spirit Lake. He thanked the Board for convening this meeting. The Board's fiduciary duty is to protect children. He is not for censoring. The two books being discussed at this meeting are promoting an ideology/lifestyle and not educating.

- Debbie Allen – Rathdrum. She is alarmed that children are not being protected. She agrees with all the comments about “Something Happened in Our Town”. She also agrees that books should be for educating and not promoting ideology. Children’s minds are not fully developed until in their 20’s.
- Mike Birdsong - There is a big difference between 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and freedom of speech. Children need to be protected. There are 348 different questionable books. He is speaking on behalf of parents that cannot attend. He doesn’t care how anyone identifies; no books should be available for kids that are harmful.
- Sheri Weems – Post Falls. She is a stay-at-home mom that has also homeschooled her children for the last 7 years. House Bill 666 would sentence librarians up to a year in jail allowing children to checkout obscene materials. Isn’t it the parent’s job to select books appropriate for their children? Kids have a right to learn about everything.
- Preston Baxter – Athol. You are not here to serve an ideology. You are here to serve this community. He is for freedom of speech except when they are harmful to children. Just as knives or guns are dangerous, harmful books should not be available to children. He quoted from the Bible.
- Roger Dunham – Athol. He agrees kids should be protected. It is the duty of parents to do that. He discussed materials that are not available, and this creates a biased collection. He would like to see Epoch Times or the American Essence magazine available at the library.
- Tammy Heath – Athol. She has lived here for 20 years, raised 6 kids and is now raising 2 grandkids. She has heard about all the materials that are harmful to children but has not heard about the kids that are actually harmed. Once censorship starts, where does it stop?
- Mary Swoboda - Rathdrum. She talked about Corrie ten Boom and the conversation she had with her father about what was a sex sin. His explanation was some knowledge is too heavy for children. Children’s innocence is worth protecting and fighting for. Parents and caregivers must do their part to carry the load.
- Nina Beesley – Rathdrum. American Essence magazine has been rejected by Community Library Network but does recommend “George” to be available for children. She would like to know what pedophile puts that book on the shelf. No associations are above the Idaho state law. Epoch Times publication was also rejected. She would like the books removed from the children’s collection.

#### Board Procedures *(10 minutes)*

United for Libraries Ethics statement

Rotation

Discussion rotation this month will start with Ottosen. Ottosen does not believe that a rotating discussion falls under Robert’s Rules of Order. Blank noted that rotation was to ensure each trustee had an opportunity to speak on each agenda item and for meeting efficiency. Rotation will continue for this Board meeting.

Parliamentary procedures

Blank took time this past month to learn more about Robert’s Rules of Order for Small Boards. These are tools to be used to help run the meeting efficiently and fairly. Options for following good parliamentary procedures include paying the district’s attorney to attend all meetings, hire a parliamentarian, or stop the meeting and look up the procedure.

#### Athol Library Annual Report *(15 minutes)*

Jill Roche introduced herself. She thanked the audience for staying following the public comment. She talked about her background; she has been the library manager at Athol for 7 years. She is glad to have the Board back in Athol. Roche reviewed the pre-COVID goals that were not able to be achieved. Some goals have continued into current times. The collection reflects what is popular for the Athol community. These include gardening and sustainability books. She shared some pictures showing how they utilize “shelf-talkers” to make finding materials easier to find. Circulation statistics have increased and show that the library is returning to normal. Through grants from the

Friends of the Library and the library Foundation, Athol had a mural painted in the high space to go with their kites. Roche introduced her staff and the volunteers in Athol. Two summers ago, the library partnered with Super 1 and P1FCU for an outdoor family movie night. They participated in the Trunk-or-Treat at Super 1. During COVID, storytime was outside, but programs have now moved back into the library. The youth programs have partnered with Farragut State Park for outdoor programs. Virtual programs were made available for adults and are posted on the YouTube page. Book clubs have restarted. Staff participated in the Athol Days parade and Athol Christmas Festival. Goals for the upcoming year include more community engagement, joining the Bayview Chamber of Commerce, increasing programs for adults and families, and updating the young adult section with the help from local teens. Roche thanked everyone for attending.

Break and tour of Athol Library: 3:30 pm to 3:47 pm

Consent agenda: action item (*10 minutes*)

Minutes of the regular meeting of 17 March

Minutes of the CIN meeting of February 2022

March CIN Financial Statements

Community Library March 2022 reports

Response to Public Comment: for the record, 352 signatures were collected for the petition presented by Paster Hemmings regarding the Programming Policy.

7 changes noted to the minutes of the March 17, 2022 regular meeting.

McCrea moved to accept the consent agenda with noted changes

M, C - McCrea

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

Meyer moved to accept the March 2022 Financial Statements

M, C - Meyer

Circulation Statistics: March (*5 minutes*)

Rodda noted that March was quite a bit busier than February and up from a year ago. Digital resources have dropped some due to members coming back into the library.

Response to public comment (*10 minutes*)

McCrea noted that since the public comment policy states that the Board will address public comment from the prior meeting, it should be a regular agenda item. She agrees that, on a national level, there is an agenda being pushed on children, but she does not believe it exists within the library district. Robinson would like to see the Materials Selection Policy reviewed, as stated in the policy. Meyer requests the policy be placed on the agenda.

Director's report (*10 minutes*)

Rodda talked about the All Staff Day coming up on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The Board is invited to participate as their schedule allows. She will email the final All Staff Day agenda to the Trustees.

Financial Management guidelines: action item (*10 minutes*)

Rodda noted the prior guidelines were pre-2012. With the advice from the auditor, the policy created reflects current practices. Three typos noted.

McCrea moved to approve the Financial Management Policy date 4-21-22 with noted changes.

M, C - McCrea

Athol library tour (*20 minutes*) – tour held during earlier break

Review of Request for Reconsideration of book "George" by Alex Gino: action item (5 minutes)

Based on the discussion had last month and there being no showing of a failure to follow existing policy, McCrea moved that the Board decline the patron's request for reconsideration of the staff's decision regarding "George" by Alex Gino.

Ottosen noted state law is above library policy. Robinson asked about sections of the book. Meyer stated the current policy had been followed.

M, C – Ottosen opposed

Review of Request for Reconsideration of book "Something Happened in Our Town": action item (30 minutes)

Rodda described how the book was reviewed. She noted this is a fiction book and is classified in the juvenile fiction section. It has been recommended by staff to retain the book in the collection. Ottosen noted that state law is above library policy. Miseducation is harmful. McCrea researched the book and found that there is no middle ground but wondered if the book was relevant to our community. She would like an opportunity to review materials made available from the public and read the book herself. Veale feels the policy has been followed. Robinson would like to review the materials presented by the public. Meyer agreed. Rodda noted that at one time, there was enough demand for this book for the district to purchase a second copy. The book was purchased in a time when the topic was relevant. Blank noted the consortium has 5 of the 9 items listed on the members appeal for reconsideration. If the library removes a book due to ideology, and since the library is a government entity, the removal rises to a higher level of censorship review. McCrea would like additional information from the member regarding the book. Consensus is to further review this reconsideration at the next meeting.

Robinson moved to extend the meeting until 5:30 pm

M, C - Robinson

Job descriptions (15 minutes):

Adult Programming Coordinator: action item

Robinson moved to accept the Adult Programming Coordinator job description draft dated 4-21-22.

M, C - Robinson

Outreach Manager: action item

Ottosen asked why a bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university is required. This position oversees a full department, the outreach vehicle fleet, and supervises several staff members.

McCrea moved to accept the Outreach Manager job description draft dated 4-21-22.

M, C - McCrea

Collection Development/Technical Services Coordinator: action item

Meyer moved to accept the Collection Development/Technical Services Coordinator job description draft dated 4-21-22. Ottosen noted the new ALA president is a Marxist lesbian and the educational requirements would create a biased staff member. Rodda noted that the president for ALA changes every year. The governing body of ALA overseeing accreditation for education has educational standards to uphold. The president has very little participation or influence in the accreditation process.

M, C – Meyer; Ottosen opposed

Strategic planning update (10 minutes)

The steering committee met again last week. The community survey for the public is now available. A link to the survey can be found on the district website and will be open for three to four weeks. The community focus group meeting will be held at the end of May. McCrea is encouraging everyone to send the survey to everyone they know. Targeted advertising to get library users and non-users to take the survey is underway.

Trustee Continuing Education (*5 minutes*)

ICRMP training  
PLA Conference

Rodda and several staff members attended the conference. She reviewed some of the programs she attended. Ottosen attended virtually, had some connection problems but attended some good programs she discussed. The trustee classes were not available online.

Facilities updates (*2.5 minutes*)

Rodda noted some projects that need to be placed on hold to address some more emergent needs at Spirit Lake and Harrison. Post Falls received some bequest monies, and a project may be brought to the Board in the future.

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) (*2.5 minutes*)

Request from Ottosen regarding Pledge of Allegiance

This is a Board procedure. The consensus is to add the Pledge of Allegiance to the meeting.

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

All Staff Day is May 13, 2022

Adjournment: action item

McCrea moved to adjourn at 5:33 pm

M, C - McCrea

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Rodda, Janelle Sells

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Calendar of events:

13 May 2022	All Staff Day	10:0-4:00	Q'emlin Park trailhead event center
19 May 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Rathdrum
16 Jun 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Spirit Lake
21 Jul 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Harrison

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)

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