

**Community Library Network
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Thursday 19 May 2022
Rathdrum Library**

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, Linda Mahon

Pledge of Allegiance

Response to public comment (*10 minutes*)

Veale spoke about the anniversary of the 1933 book burning in Germany and Austria and how important the free exchange of information and ideas is to freedom. Rodda discussed some reasons why some magazines/newspapers may not be carried in the libraries. She also talked about collections and children in the library policies. Ottosen disagreed with Rodda about the variety of newspapers available in the library. Robinson asked about the bookmobile and school visits. Rodda explained that children still need a library card to check out materials. Staff help guide children to the appropriate materials, but the teachers are responsible for the students. McCrea noted that when parents have their children's library cards linked, parents will know what materials are checked out.

Public Comment

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

- Ryan LaBarre, Hayden – Moved here from Minnesota. He feels librarians are being attacked for offering the free exchange of information through the collection. He thanked the librarians for their hard work.
- Sofie Milam, Silver Valley – She noted a library is not a school. Libraries are a tool for people to get information from all points of view. She described her favorite topic of books, what she learned from them and that they didn't influence toward a LGBTQ+ lifestyle but instead excited her to be a women astronaut. Librarians provided materials she was interested in without judgement.
- Kyla Weems, Post Falls – She noted that those speaking at the last meeting were going against the rights of the First Amendment, that it is better to remove controversial books than expect parents to be responsible for what their children read. You don't get to choose what others read, only yourself. It is the libraries job to provide an opportunity of choice.
- Sheri Weems, Post Falls – She talked about the purchase of Twitter and the back lash for and against free speech. The First Amendment right allows the public to choose what they want to read. Censorship from either political side is wrong. Libraries are a place where all ideas can be enjoyed if you wish. It is each person's choice.
- Marianna Cochran, Rathdrum – She discussed the budget for software and databases. She talked about how Collection HQ is used. It helps libraries to develop a wide variety of relevant

materials including diversity, equity, and inclusion topics. An April picture of a teen book display had 6 books that contained main characters and central themes of homosexuality, transgenderism, and gender identity. Despite the thousands of books in the Teen section, 35% of this display had LGBTQ themes. Collection HQ tools target these themes. She is not a satisfied patron.

- Liz Worcester, Post Falls – This is a democratic republic, and we live in a Christian based country. She discussed the new ALA president that is a lesbian and Marxist. ALA is not an unbiased organization. The new president is noted as “queering” the catalogue as her top-sited work.

Board Procedures (*10 minutes*)

Parliamentary procedures

- Board members will all have an opportunity to speak. Each member will have an opportunity to speak once before they can speak a second time. By consensus, trustees will not speak by rotation.
- Blank asked if the Board wanted to utilize a “second” on motions. The change would cause a motion that does not receive a “second” to fail.

Board officer election information

- Meyer will act as the nominating committee for elections in June and welcomes others to the committee if they are interested.

Rathdrum Library Annual Report (*15 minutes*)

Linda Mahon introduced herself to the Board. She briefly discussed her library history. Mahon talked about how she and her staff introduce library services to new card members. She also noted that post-COVID closure, library use is returning to normal. Mahon talked about Freegal and how it works. Rathdrum has issued an average of 62 new cards each week in the past year. Programming is slowly returning. Story time held in the meeting room today had over 60 in attendance. Mahon noted how difficult turnover has been for Rathdrum. Some staff left for other District positions while others left for better economic opportunities at different organizations. She noted some furniture changes to Rathdrum making services for members easier and how great the new lighting is. This years Lego competition had a lot of entries.

- Meyer noted her concern regarding staff turnover and salaries should be thought of as the next budget is developed. Salary is not the only factor when staff leave; benefits are also lacking. Robinson asked about the staff member that went to Coeur d’Alene. McCrea thanked Mahon for her report.

Consent agenda: action item (*10 minutes*)

Minutes of the regular meeting of 21 April

Minutes of the CIN meeting of March 2022

April CIN Financial Statements

Community Library April 2022 reports

- McCrea moved to accept the consent agenda.

M, C - McCrea

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

- Robinson moved to accept the April 2022 Financial Statements
- Meyer asked about the grants received that have brought the income and expense lines above the yearly budget. Ottosen noted the low interest rate.

M, C - Robinson

Circulation Statistics: April (*5 minutes*)

- Rodda noted that April has followed the trend of more business.

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

- Rodda noted the email response from the member regarding the Board's request to receive any additional information from the member about the current reconsideration. Robinson stated she read the book and reviewed the criteria for selecting a book. She does not think the book meets criteria for selection or an appropriate book for the intended age group. She feels it is harmful to teach children that cops are bad. McCrea also read the book. She didn't get the impression the book asserts all cops are bad and that if you are black, you are scary and a victim. Rodda noted that the book was not housed in the 4-to-8-year section but in the elementary school age section. At the time the book was purchased, current events were more relevant to the book topic. McCrea reviewed the material given from members of the public. She is opposed to removing a book based on disliking the viewpoint. Meyer thought the book was timely and liked the parent talking points in the back of the book. Veale appreciated the notes from staff about the book. She feels that opinions opposing this book are viewpoint based. Ottosen noted that Critical Race Theory has been restricted from schools. Blank reviewed the materials presented by the public. She stated the research papers were from quality sources. She also stated the sentences highlighted were not what the research paper concluded. This was consistent with the way the statistics were presented. This book provides an opportunity for discussion between parent and child. Blank said the library offers materials sensitive to law enforcement. Ottosen stated that she is not considering removing the book from the library altogether, just removing it from the children's section. Rodda stated that libraries play a different role from schools and libraries are for offering choices of materials and services for all members of the community. She also stated that it could be considered viewpoint discrimination to move this book out of the children's section.
 - Ottosen moved to overturn the denial of reconsideration and remove the book from the children's section.

M, Failed – Ottosen; Meyer, McCrea, Blank opposed.

- McCrea moved to uphold the determination from staff as outlined in the letter dated February 1, 2022

M, C – McCrea; Ottosen opposed, Robinson abstained

Break from 3:58 pm to 4:18 pm

Rathdrum library tour (20 minutes)

Directors evaluation (15 minutes)

Set special meeting date: action item

- Blank described the origins of evaluation form for the Director. Rodda will email an updated form to the Board members. A special meeting will need to be held for the evaluation. Meyer would like to review the goals for the Director given at time of hire and current salary and benefits. Ottosen would like to compare the prior evaluation form to the one presented. A special meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2022 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Post Falls.

Director's report (10 minutes)

- Rodda noted the compensation study is moving forward. Results may not be available until August. Final data and reports will be given to the Board. Blank and Robinson thanked the staff for the great All Staff Day.

Strategic planning update (*10 minutes*)

- The community survey has been available for the last 3 ½ weeks. Executive summaries from the staff and community will be available soon. The planning retreat will be May 21, 2022 from 10:00 to 4:00 at Dalton Gardens Church of Christ. Rodda will resend the email invitation to the Board. Approximately 30 members of the public confirmed attendance

Trustee Continuing Education (*5 minutes*) - tabled
ICRMP training

Facilities updates (*2.5 minutes*)

- The water issue at Harrison continues and the facilities department is working closely with the City of Harrison.

Legislative updates (*2.5 minutes*) – none at this time.

Community announcements (*2.5 minutes*) – none at this time.

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 Robinson regarding review of Material Selection Policy
 - o The next 3 months will be filled with preparing the budget. Blank recommends policy review to begin in September. Consensus is to add to this agenda item in September. A facilitator may be needed.
- Meyer is asking for an executive session for a Board self-evaluation.
 - o Consensus is to make this an agenda item.

Set Special and regular meeting dates: action item (*5 minutes*) – none at this time.

Adjournment: action item

- McCrea moved to adjourn at 4:56 pm

M, C - McCrea

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Rodda, Director
Janelle Sells, Business Manager

Calendar of events:

16 Jun 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Spirit Lake
21 Jul 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 – 5:00	Harrison
11 Aug 2022	Budget Hearing	6:00	Post Falls

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Phone: 208-773-1506 ext. 329

Email: ADAcordinator@communitylibrary.net

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