

**Community Library Network
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday 16 December 2021
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: Trustees: Katie Blank, Regina McCrea, Rachelle Ottosen (arrived at 2:02 pm), Vanessa Robinson, Judy Meyer

Treasurer: Michele Veale

Staff: Amy Rodda, Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller, Janelle Sells, Jennifer Craft

Public Comment: 17 Public present requesting to speak. Blank is limiting time allotted to 3 minutes due to the number of speakers. Board and staff introduced themselves to the audience.

Speakers must live within the District.

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

- Jeanette Laster - HREI
 - She read from the ALA report on censorship. Trends nation-wide are seeking to censor books regarding diversity; freedom to speak, publish, and read any books from authors of diversity. Libraries are an entity for the First Amendment allowing for materials and programs from all sides of topics to be available for all. ALA Board and staff continue to champion the freedom to read for all.
- Lis Worcester- Post Falls
 - Quoted from Libido Dominandi regarding sexual liberation is a form of control and manipulation. She references the story of Samson and Delilah. By promoting vice of sexual liberation, it promotes control through manipulating passions. Do we want to provide sexually liberating materials?
- Tamra Sines-Kermelis - Hayden
 - A library user for the past 20 years of all the libraries. She enjoys access to a wide variety of material for her children and it is her decision, not someone else's, what is acceptable for her children. She would like all kids to have access to materials for children that are like them. People with different views cannot publicly censor books. Parents should decide what their children should read.
- Jason Lauritzen- Post Falls
 - 3rd generation Idahoan. He has come to combat ignorance and hate. Last time he shared statistics. Now he is angry. In Idaho, we believe in freedom. Be a parent and be involved in choosing the books for your child. Quit harassing little kids at the library. It is creepy and weird.
- Marci Clark - Post Falls
 - She cannot believe that we are back to banning books. It is against the law to censor books. No books in the library are sexually explicit. As a parent, she was always there to monitor what her children read. Don't parent her kids, that is her job.
- Rebecca Priano Vellucci - Post Falls
 - Quote from Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech "I've Been to the Mountaintop" about perhaps understanding the denial of some basic First Amendment rights had he lived in China, Russia or any totalitarian country. Libraries should be open to all but the

cancel. The Bill of Rights, the First Amendment prohibits censorship for public entities. Censorship reveals fear. It doesn't matter what you want to censor, and it is wrong in our public library.

- Gideon Telford - Post Falls
 - Not in support of banning books
- Jessica Mahuron - North Idaho Price Alliance
 - National Coalition Against Censorship works to combat the ongoing attempts to purge books of diversity and limiting freedom of expression. The law prohibits viewpoint censorship for public entities. Denying children access to books that reflect their own lives is harmful. The First Amendment ensures that no one can limit what freedoms all individuals have.
- Nina Beasley - Rathdrum; commented on the reduced speaking time
 - Quoted from sections of Idaho Code Title 18 Crimes and Punishment, Chapter 15 Children and Vulnerable Adults 18+: 18-1513 Obscene Material - Dissemination to Minors, 18-1514 Obscene Materials - Definitions, 18-1515 Disseminating Material Harmful to Minors Defined - Penalty. Also quoted from Idaho Code 18-6605 Crime Against Nature - Punishment and from Idaho Constitution Article III Section 28 - Marriage.
- Kim Eichler - Post Falls
 - Have any of the Board members read the laws of the State of Idaho? She built a business taking care of children. Children are gifts from God and are pure of heart. Children are born into families for parents to nurture. She pays taxes and does not feel comfortable coming into the library with the materials that are in the library.
- Marianna Cochran - Rathdrum
 - When voting for elected officers, she looks at three essential criteria: the candidate's platform regarding the office they are running for, their background and accomplishments, and most importantly, their values. As principled women, the Board has the role of community leader to shape the community. You were elected to represent our children. Thank you for the opportunity to speak but this forum limits a dialogue with the Board. Irrespective of the ALA dictates for Intellectual Freedom or claiming First Amendment rights, what do you believe is conducive to the safe and sane development of children regarding early sexual activity? What do you believe has influenced the de-evolution of the nuclear family? What role do books and visual media play in the denigration of heterosexuality, masculinity, being white and conservative values? Are there any limits to materials describing sexuality or promoting homosexuality? Other public officials sponsor town-hall meeting - this Board should too.
- Mike Birdsong
 - He does not care if someone is straight or gay - all should protect children. As parents and adults, everyone should work together to protect the kids. Let kids be kids. Politicizing any sexual agenda is wrong. We need to work together and stop being bullies. Kids must come first.
- Nash Mahuron
 - He has lived in this community for 30 years. He is an ally to the library. All books should have a place in the library unless there are legal or copyright issues. He quoted several passages from the Bible including passages about the relationship of David and Jonathan. You will be judged by the same standards that you judge from Matthew chapter 7. We have the freedom of press.
- Dave Reilly
 - Today, the argument is not censorship. It can be used to for good or for bad. It's about promoting a gay agenda and corrupting our children. These people are

perverts, and they are trying to pervert our children. Those of the LGBT community should leave our community.

- Vincent James - Post Falls
 - He agrees with Dave that those against censorship are the first ones to celebrate Trump being banned from Twitter. He is a father and is here to protect children. The past ten year or so, trends of those identifying in the LGBT community has increased. We don't need additional content to sway children to an alternate lifestyle.
- Joe Prado - Rathdrum
 - Stands with Dave and Vince. Average age of kids that view pornography is 12. He does not stand for the alternate lifestyle. All Catholics and all Christians should follow their faith.
- Randy Neal
 - He has a bachelors in sociology and psychology. The library is a great place to learn and expand your knowledge; for example, how to build bird houses, etc. Teaching children about sexual matters is the responsibility of parents. Children are very vulnerable to suggestion. A friend of his child's went through a gender transition with the support of her parents and now regrets it. It is the role of the parent to guide children as they grow and mature.

The Board chair thanked everyone for coming, invited them to future meetings and invited the public to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Break taken at 2:52 pm

Reconvened at 2:59 pm

Presentation of Post Falls annual report - Jennifer Craft

- This year Craft presented: "It could always be worse"
 - She has a very talented and flexible staff that serve our growing and diverse community.
- During the pandemic, staff arranged tables for library users to browse and check out material in the lobby, curbside remained open, created movie bundles for the weekend, grab and go kits continue to be very popular, 3D printing took off like wildfire and was difficult to keep up with. In-house programming restarted outside with music, robots, and mud kitchens. Record-breaking juvenile circulation numbers in August - over 11,000 items. Teen-writing programs continued virtually and produced 2 publications. New this year: Library of Things and "The Book Isn't Necessarily Better" podcast.
- Expanded partnerships with community business: 2nd Harvest Food Bank provided food distribution at the library, OurCommunityHistory.net website launched with the sponsorship by the Idaho Commission for Libraries, hosted a booth at the Post Falls Business job fair, and trained a group of teen volunteers to help with a variety of programs and tasks.
- Staff development continued this year with a half day all staff day with live streaming training. Niche Academy provides library training for dealing with a variety of library users and now is expanding to database training.
- Always looking to maximize space, print magazines were scaled back to help the expanding juvenile, oversize, and young adult sections. Well-used furniture was replaced with new furniture from the Idaho Correctional Industries. The District YouTube channel now has over 100 videos and nearly 30,000 views since its creation.
- The future: renovate the children's area utilizing a couple large bequests, including one in memory of Grace Cunningham, who was a Post Falls librarian in the 1950's and 1960's.

Craft left the meeting at 3:23 pm

Board Procedures

Roll call vote - consensus item

Blank explained that traditionally a voice vote was only done when legally required to do so, but that does not mean that the Board could not do so for other votes. The By-laws state that at any time a Board member may request a voice, roll call vote. She suggested that all votes be a voiced, roll call votes. McCrea noted that all votes are noted in the minutes of who makes the motion and who opposes or abstains. Meyer stated that roll call votes may add additional time to meetings when time is limited as it is. She would like more time to think about the process. Ottosen stated she was wanting a roll call vote for a specific agenda item. Further discussion may be in future meetings.

Consent agenda: action item

Minutes of the regular meeting of 18 November

Minutes of the CIN meeting of October 2021

November CIN Financial Statements

Community Library November 2021 reports

- Meyer would like the name of the report author next to the section header of the Community library reports.
- Regular meeting minutes of 11-18 - Ottosen would like to correct the summary of her comments from page 3:
 - “She indicates that programs promoting sexual behavior ~~that is not natural~~, is against God and is wrong. 40% of young people aged 18 to 24 nation-wide identify as LGBTQ, which is due to programming and recruiting, not a natural tendency toward species destruction. Encouraging...”

McCrea moved to accept the Consent agenda with changes noted.

M, C - McCrea

Community Library Network November 2021 financial statements: action item

- Ottosen noted funds available for conferences and has requested to attend PLA (Public Library Association) in Portland. Rodda noted that this year there is not a Trustee track and there is only one session during the three days for trustees. ILA (Idaho Library Association) generally has a trustee track with the Fall training that will be held in Lewiston this year. PNLA (Pacific Northwest Library Association) will be in Post Falls in 2023. Blank also looked at the tracks for PLA and was disappointed in the lack of sessions for trustees. ALA (American Library Association) has the most trustee tracks but is not always close. ALA will be in June in Washington DC. Meyer asked for a calendar of training with locations for budgeting purposes.
- Correction needed the percentage column on line 79. Hold approval until corrected.

Money management discussion

CARRF funds: action item

Prior to the last deposit of CARRF money, the account balance was below the FDIC insurance maximum of \$250,000. The account is now over \$350,000. The district utilizes dual control of funds to ensure no one individual can use funds for personal gain. The Business Manager can move funds among district owned bank accounts but cannot ultimately make funds leave the district. First Interstate Bank offers an investing vehicle with short term CDs to keep District funds insured - CDARS. Meyer encourages staff to continue to look for institutions maximizing interest earning potential.

McCrea moved to authorize the Business Manager to utilize CDARS with First Interstate Bank for insuring CARRF funds beyond the FDIC limits.

M, C - McCrea

Meyer moved to extend meeting until 5:30

M,C - Meyer

Circulation Statistics: November

- Rodda noted that comparison to November of last year will be strange due to closures.

Director's report

- Rodda used the report to review goals from the Directors evaluation. She will forward information regarding the multi-factor authorization app needed to view email on smart phones. McCrea is concerned with postponing the Facilities Master plan until Fall 2023. Rodda noted that there are three large projects on the horizon: the strategic plan, staffing/salary study, and the Facilities Master plan. It is possible to move up the Facilities Master to early 2023. Blank noted that the push for the master plan was due to the current bond expiring in 2025. McCrea does not want to miss the opportunity to work with the city of Rathdrum and their expansion in order to relieve the under-size space of the Rathdrum library. The Facilities Manager will present a report in February. Meyer thanked Rodda for providing the proposed timeline for the three large projects.

Carryforward FY 2022 proposal discussion

Set budget hearing: action item

- Budget hearing is to accept the additional carryforward of \$442,345 and assign it to specific expenditure lines. This will amend the current, approved, Fiscal 2021-2022 budget. A budget hearing will also be held for re-opening the Fiscal year 2020-2021 to accept additional income received over budget. Robinson noted that utilities may increase significantly over the winter.
- It was noted that both hearings can be done in conjunction with the regular meeting day on January 27, 2022.

McCrea moved to re-open the budgets at a public hearing on January 27, 2022 at 6:00 pm

M, C - McCrea

Strategic planning discussion: action item

- Four proposals were submitted from consultants for the strategic plan. Rodda provided a summary of the proposals for review. The proposals came in under the legal threshold to require taking the lowest bid. Meyer noted that two of the consultants have worked with the District in the past. Veale suggested utilizing June Garcia. Blank liked Library Strategies with their focus on community input. Her second choice is June Garcia. Meyer also liked the emphasis of the community engagement with Library Strategies but wants to know more about how they utilize their foundation and/or friends' group. Rodda noted that she worked with June Garcia and Libraries Thrive in the past. She also likes broad community representation that Library Strategies would bring and their methodology. McCrea is in favor of selecting a consultant and moving forward. Blank suggests selecting one or two and have Rodda check references with the Board sharing feedback via email the beginning of January. Meyer suggested Rodda check references on Library Strategies. McCrea offered to contact Board members of other libraries as references. Meyer is also available to check board member references. Reference checks should be completed by the first week of January. Ottosen would like to have two consultants reference checked. The second choice would be Rethinking Libraries. Rodda will share results of reference checks via email. Depending upon results, a special meeting the beginning of January may be scheduled to select the final consultant.

Programming policy draft discussion - No discussion

The director's COVID-19 emergency authorization: action item - No discussion

Trustee Continuing Education

ICRMP training

- Blank, Rodda, Miller-Escarfuller and Sells met with Jim McNall from ICRMP. The discussion was very beneficial and Blank would like to have McNall come for a full Board training.

Reconsideration of fines - No discussion

Public Comment policy - No discussion

Legislative updates - No discussion

Community announcements - No discussion

Agenda discussion and requests - No discussion

"Should CLN allow children 12 and under unrestricted access to sexual/lgbt materials (independent of internet filtering, which is already required by law to protect children)." - Roll call vote - request from Rachelle

Set Special and regular meeting dates: action item

McCrea will be unavailable on February 17, 2022. The meeting will be moved to February 15, 2022, at 2:00 pm.

Adjournment: action item

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 pm

M, C - McCrea

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Rodda, Janelle Sells

Calendar of events:

27 Jan 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 - 5:00	Post Falls
15 Feb 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 - 5:00	Post Falls
17 Mar 2022	Regular Meeting	2:00 - 5:00	Hayden

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

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