

Community Library Network
SPECIAL Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024
POST FALLS LIBRARY

2:00-4:00PM

We Empower Discovery

Agenda

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

Roll Call Trustees: Katie Blank, Tom Hanley, Rachele Ottosen (arrived at 3:02 pm),
Tim Plass, Vanessa Robinson
Staff: Alexa Eccles, Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller

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.

- Suzanne Kearney, Post Falls – Discussed a letter from former Trustee Regina McCrea about open meeting law. She spoke about the Director’s past performance. She suggested offering staff a floating holiday. She requested the board not renew the Director’s contract in 2025.
- Diane Van Etten, Hayden – Spoke in favor of the Juneteenth holiday. She read from the book “Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free – the True Story of the Grandmother of Juneteenth.”
- Teresa Birkett, Post Falls – Addressed the board’s possible open meeting law violation on March 6, 2024. She stated that typed out speeches and motions and discussions limited to 10 minutes indicate predetermined discussion by board members. She said the Board has not thanked Lake Coeur d’Alene Movers for providing services to the library.
- Summer Bushnell, - Addressed email sent recently. Appreciates the library’s quick response to records requests. She spoke against Juneteenth and suggested giving staff a floating holiday.
- Dallas J Graves, Silver Valley – Addressed the removal of Juneteenth as short sighted and superficial. She spoke in favor of Juneteenth and suggested the board seek staff input before abruptly revoking a holiday. She spoke against racism.
- Linda Putts, Hayden – Spoke against Juneteenth. Said it is not representative of the community. Suggested a floating holiday for staff.

Discussion and review training on Open Meeting Law.

- Blank opened the discussion by referring to the letter the board received from former Trustee Regina McCrea about possible open meeting law violations. She is concerned that trustees have not received education on open meeting law. At the last meeting, she spoke with Boyles and asked that he attend this meeting. Blank suggested the trustees go through the open meeting law handbook. Hanley stated he determined that Boyles did not need to be at the meeting as there were no action items on the agenda. Eccles stated Boyles has been invited to attend every meeting. She stated a singular trustee does not have authority to instruct the attorney; the board majority determines the need for legal counsel. Robinson stated she was in disbelief

that Boyles was told not to come. Plass agreed that legal counsel does not need to be present if there are no action items on the agenda. He stated that Boyles is only here to guide us before we take action. Eccles advised that the board take a recess to see if Boyles can join via phone or computer. Robinson questioned if Boyles would be prepared if he was not planning to attend. Hanley stated the special meeting was called by two trustees or the Director and it is up to them to determine who provides training. Plass stated legal counsel provided open meeting law training at his first trustee meeting. Hanley stated next time we need to decide when counsel will or will not be present. Blank stated the trustees have been told by an attorney that we have violated open meeting law, and we should talk about the questions presented in the letter. Hanley stated we are not going through point by point on someone's accusations. Plass stated Boyles requested an email and he will investigate the allegations of violations. It is inappropriate to read McCrea's letter in the meeting. Blank read from page 1 and 2 of the Idaho Open Meeting Law Manual. She stated her question concerns whether a 2/3 vote is required, does that mean members present or all members of the governing body? Eccles stated that Boyles previously answered that question and that it requires four voting members. Plass stated page 24(5) answers the question; the governing authority of our board is 3. Blank stated no one sitting here is an attorney; Boyles needs to answer the question. Eccles stated best practice is not to talk to other trustees outside of board meetings about business currently happening with the board. Board business should be done in front of the public. Robinson asked if Boyles has given the trustees an answer about the best way to deliver legal information to the board. Eccles stated she has not received anything from Boyles. She stated the attorney will mark things as confidential and those should be held in private and not made public. The Director, Chair, and attorney will discuss if a topic must be shared only in executive session. Plass stated he requested legal counsel give advice in writing or executive session. We do not have to have on public record what his advice was if the policy will lead to litigation. The attorney can provide similar court cases, but the board makes the decision. Plass stated he does not want a public record of the attorney saying this is safe and the board does something else. Once on record it can be used in litigation and be proved we are doing something reckless. Hanley mentioned page 38 of the Idaho Open Meeting Law Manual outlines when executive session should be used. Blank said the manual is very clear about when we go into executive session. Not wanting something on public record is the opposite of transparency. Hanley stated the board cannot address the letter from former Trustee Regina McCrea. Hanley stated time is up for discussion.

Discussion on Personnel Policy 5.3.6 Holiday

- Blank stated the discussion was cut off at the last meeting and requested input from staff. Eccles stated the revised policy is included in packet. She compared other libraries in the area and their approved holidays. Only CDA Library does not recognize Juneteenth. Eccles presented a summary of the results of a staff survey regarding holiday closures. She summarized comments relating to Juneteenth, the fiscal year, and the effect on staff. Eccles requested clarification on whether this change is for next fiscal year as the budget is set for FY24. It is a financial strain for staff to have three days off in November. Plass clarified that Presidents' Day is still called Presidents' Day. He recommends that Juneteenth be honored this year to align the holiday changes with the fiscal year. Robinson stated that the board could have had this discussion before voting at the last meeting. She believes the holiday change is not racially motivated. She reminded trustees that the libraries are open on Saturday, staff will not get a four-day weekend with the Thanksgiving travel day. Eccles shared CLN has 30 full-time staff

and those are the ones that are paid for holidays. Robinson stated we need to discuss if this change is happening in 2025. Eccles said it is effective this year and if it needs to be changed it needs to be modified in a future meeting. Blank agreed it should be added to a future agenda. Eccles suggested adding it to the next regular meeting. Hanley requested to limit discussion to implementation date only and not rehash the topic.

Adjournment: Action Item

Hanley moved to adjourn at 3:11 pm
M, C - Hanley

Respectfully submitted,
Alexa Eccles, Lindsey Miller-Escarfuller

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Calendar of events: April 18, 2024, 2:00-5:30pm, Hayden Library

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.

Posted: 03/25/2024