



Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Coeur d'Alene Public Library Board of Trustees

January 24, 2024

Meeting held in Library Community Room

Trustees Present:

Jim Windisch, Board Chair
Ann Smart, Board Vice Chair
Melisa Carper Bell, Board Member
Katie Saylor, Board Member

Others:

Ayla Frens, Student Representative
Holly Stetson, Library Foundation
Melissa Searle, Collection Development Librarian
Michael Priest, Library Director

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Jim Windisch at 4:02 p.m. Board Member Steve McCrea and Alternate Student Representative Lola Burns were excused.

Public Comment: Kara Claridge, Coeur d'Alene, noted that House Bill 384 was being considered by the Idaho Legislature. She feels that there are many questionable topics prevalent in the library's collections for minors, particularly in the young adult section. Ms. Claridge believes that House Bill 384 will bring a greater balance between library collections and community standards for what is appropriate content for minors. She also urged that the Board of Trustees take action before legislation is passed.

Consent Calendar: Ann noted that some of the recent patron feedback asked that certain titles be purchased for the collection. She requested for a rundown on how staff determine whether to fulfil these requests. Michael explained that staff refer to the guidelines within the library's Materials Selection and Collection Development Policy. The first objective is to determine whether the library can easily obtain the item at a reasonable price. Staff have a strong preference for ordering materials through the library's primary vendor, Baker & Taylor, due to the fact that they offer a significant discount on retail pricing. Staff then gather as much information on the materials as possible in order to make an informed decision. They consult reviews in professional library journals, reviews in major publications, and online user feedback where appropriate. Melissa Searle added that materials that were generally receiving negative reviews or no reviews at all, but that were still on bestseller lists and receiving a level of media attention and publicity would likely be added to the collection. She also indicated that the overall status of library's collection and budget played a factor, with staff looking to balance a wide range of community interests and divide spending relative to usage among all age groups. Motion to approve the consent calendar, Katie; second, Ann. Approved.

Director's report: The library has seen a noticeable uptick in usage due to Post Falls Library's closure for severe water damage since January 14. It is expected that the Post Falls facility will be closed for several months. The Call to Artists for the lower-level art project is now posted to the Call for Entry (CaFE) website that the Arts Commission uses to engage artists. It will run for a full two months through February 29. A selection committee will be formed to assess the entries.

The lighting project is underway, changing the vast majority of the library's lighting over to LED. As previously reported, the cost savings should be significant. It will also decrease the amount of time and energy the city's Building Maintenance team puts into maintaining the setup.

The Community Library Network's bookmobile services are currently on hold due to mechanical issues. CLN have informed partners that, in any event, they will no longer be providing bookmobile services outside of their district boundaries. Coeur d'Alene Library's outreach team is assessing services that they can provide to homebound patrons living within city limits who previously utilized the bookmobile. While it will not be as frequent or as wide ranging as the bookmobile services were, the thought is that the library can extend its existing "Books to You" delivery service to many of those patrons.

Meri McClatchey and Sage Peterson have joined the library team as part-time Circulation Clerks, accounting for Mary Ortman's departure and Laurel Hoffman's move to the outreach team.

Jim noted the staff report of Teen Coordinator Angela Flock, in which she revealed that Coeur d'Alene has one of the highest participation rates in the Idaho Teen Reading Challenge among public libraries in the state.

Student Representatives: Ayla said that she has been reading and enjoying the library's collections lately. She has been an active participant since the teen programming schedule restarted after the holidays.

Friends: Michael shared that the Friends have chosen to cancel this year's Shred Day event due to low attendance over the previous two years. They felt that the costly expense of hiring a specialist shredding truck was not justified. The Friends' income from the bookstore and other fundraising activities during 2023 totaled \$13,249.54. \$10,760.63 of this was spent in support of library services.

Foundation: Holly reported that the Muddy and Millie Singalong on December 9, which also publicly debuted the new *Muddy and Millie Adventures: Hawaii* book, was a big success with over 400 participants. Muddy and Millie author Susan Nipp is scheduled to visit schools in the Post Falls School District for the first time and is looking forward to increased engagement with the wider community. Holly highlighted the Born Reading project that the Foundation sponsors. Working with the library's outreach team, the Foundation delivers 170 kits a month to Kootenai Health for the parents of newborn babies. These contain a letter of congratulations from the Foundation, library literature that includes a card application form, and a board book. Anecdotal feedback from hospital staff indicates that the kits have been well received.

Election of officers: Motion to approve Jim as Board Chair and Ann as Board Vice Chair, Katie; second, Melisa. Approved.

Internet Access Policy review: Michael explained that Idaho Code 33-2741 requires that public libraries maintain a policy addressing internet usage and that it should be updated every three years. The only significant edit to the policy was the suggestion by the City Legal department that the final two sentences under section B. Legal Requirements be removed since they are in conflict with the requirement: "The library cannot and does not guarantee that the filtering software will block all obscenity, child pornography, or materials that are harmful to minors. Nor can the library guarantee that the filtering software will not restrict access to sites that may have legitimate research or other value." The statute does not require a guarantee, but it also does not allow for ineffective software. Michael thought that the sentences were likely added in 2012 when the policy was first drafted and there was possibly some uncertainty about the effectiveness of the filtering software. However, the library has now been filtering wired and wireless connections for many years now and the software has proved to be effective in achieving the desired result. Jim asked how exactly the filtering was done. Michael replied that he was uncertain but would check with the City IT department and report back. He added that the mobile hotspots offered for check out by the library were provided by T-Mobile and that the filtering was also implemented by T-Mobile.

Motion to approve the updated Internet Access Policy as presented, Katie; second, Ann. Approved.

Volunteer trustee to serve on lower-level art project selection committee: Michael said that the next step for the lower-level art project was to form a selection committee to evaluate the applications to the Call to Artists and choose an artist to proceed with. The committee so far consisted of donor Paul Fleschner and Kevin Cole of Architects West. The hope was that they would be joined by a library board trustee. Jim wondered if there was a place on the committee for Ayla. Michael thought it might be a possibility and Ayla was agreeable to joining. Melisa expressed her interest in serving as the board's representative. Motion to approve Melisa serving as the board representative on the lower-level art project selection committee, Ann; second, Katie. Approved.

Legislative updates: Michael shared that House Bill 384 had been sent back from the House of Representatives floor to the House State Affairs Committee. Its sponsor Rep. Crane is now working with Sen. Schroeder and the Idaho Library Association on a new bill addressing libraries, but it is yet to be introduced. Jim asked that the trustees be kept in the loop as things develop. A special board meeting with City Attorney Randy Adams present could be scheduled if needed.

Next regular meeting – February 28, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room

Adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Priest