



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

April 24, 2024

Meeting held in Library Community Room

Trustees Present:

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

Others:

Ayla Frens, Student Representative
Holly Stetson, Library Foundation Manager
Randy Adams, City Attorney
Sharalee Howard, Youth Services Librarian
Angela Flock, Teen Coordinator
Michael Priest, Library Director

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Jim Windisch at 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment: Marianna Cochran, Rathdrum, thinks that the Children's School and Library Protection Act signed into law by Governor Little is a monumental step forward for Idaho libraries. Her organization, Clean Books 4 Kids, is providing a list of materials that she believes meet the definitions presented within the law. Ms. Cochran encourages citizens to ensure the law is implemented.

Consent Calendar: Katie asked for clarification on the total of \$38,983 listed within the Federal Grant line of the FY 2023-24 budget and why this was showing as not having been spent in the budget status document. Michael explained that City Council approved using the City's leftover federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for bonuses for non-exempt, full-time employees. To his knowledge, the bonuses were paid to eligible employees as part of their first paycheck of FY 2023-24. He will ask the City Finance department why this is not being reflected and report back at the next meeting.

Ann asked if footnotes could be added to the statistical reports from the months impacted by the City of Coeur d'Alene's recent network outage that explain why categories such as computer usage and Wi-Fi logins experienced lower than average totals.

Katie noted that the FY 2023-24 budget Training line of \$5,000 had so far only seen \$280.99 spent. Michael replied that the library is often utilizing a number of grants and subsidies, particularly those offered by the Idaho Commission for Libraries, for staff professional development. This is one reason why the Training line was decreased in recent years. He believes there are plans to send staff to conferences planned for later in the year. Motion to approve the consent calendar, Ann; second, Katie. Approved.

Director's report: The Cooperative Information Network (CIN) agreed to finance the Aspen Discovery tool as part of their FY 24-25 budget. Aspen describes the product as being a full-featured Open Source Discovery System that integrates with eContent and other third-party providers, giving patrons comprehensive access to all materials in one place. In essence, it is an upgraded library catalog that is also available as a downloadable app. For CIN, it represents a "one-stop shopping" experience for patrons, allowing them to find all the books, eBooks, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines and various other resources within the shared CIN collections together

rather than having to search across several different platforms. For Coeur d'Alene Library, it goes a long way to achieving the goal of presenting a digital 24/7 access point for patrons. CIN is looking to launch Aspen Discovery in October.

The library received 77 applications from artists for the lower-level art project. A selection committee consisting of donor Paul Fleschner, architect Kevin Cole, Melisa and Ayla narrowed the field down to 5 finalists and selected Pete Goldlust of Eugene, Oregon as their preferred candidate. Pete has signed an initial contract that will see him work with the selection committee to finalize his design concept. The final design is due May 31. The library has been selected to be included in the Idaho Community Foundation Giving Station as part of the Celebration of Philanthropy Event on May 23 at the Hagadone Event Center. The Giving Station operates much like a vending machine. However, instead of containing food and beverage, it allows participants to select the Idaho nonprofits they wish to donate to.

Student Representatives: Ayla said she is continuing to enjoy the library's collections and teen programming. She is excited for the upcoming remodel of the teen areas now that funding has been granted by the Foundation. Like many other people her age, Ayla is getting ready to take on a job for the summer.

Friends: At their March 26 meeting, the Friends kindly offered to assist with the cost of Aspen Discovery in the event that the library chose to pursue it separately from CIN. Michael informed the Friends at their April 23 meeting that CIN had chosen to purchase Aspen Discovery as a consortium, but that the library would put their offer on standby in the event that circumstances change.

Foundation: Holly shared that the Foundation has welcomed a new member, Charlene Matheson, extending their Board of Directors to 12 members. Susan Nipp and Ann are continuing to provide Muddy & Millie programs to schools within the Post Falls School District. Holly noted that the Foundation has two upcoming events. On May 13 they are partnering with Adam Schluter to do a Monday Night Dinner at the pavilion in McEuen Park from 5:30 p.m. The event will include live music, a talk by Monday Night Dinner creator Adam Schluter about his book, and raffle items. The popular Novel Destinations series will be back with the next installment on June 13 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room. David Kilmer is returning to talk about his experiences in Argentina.

Policy updates in relation to Idaho Code § 18-1517B: The trustees reviewed four policies edited by Michael and Randy that were potentially impacted by Idaho Code § 18-1517B, the Children's School and Library Protection Act: Material Review Policy, Materials Selection and Collection Development Policy, Loan Policy, and Behavior Policy. Michael stated that the changes represent a broad interpretation of the law and mainly act as a starting point for discussion.

Melisa recommended replacing "it" with "Board of Trustees" in the second sentence of the fifth step under Procedure within the Material Review Policy to add clarity. Steve found that the Material Review form was lacking in detail and would like to see the questions reworked. He will bring his suggestions to the next meeting. Steve recommended replacing "should be excluded" with "shall be excluded" in the fourth step under Censorship within the Materials Selection and Collection Development Policy.

Katie expressed concerns about restricting a minor's access to the adult collections as presented in the Loan Policy given that full access has been standard practice and many minors and families rely on it for educational pursuits. Steve suggested that a fourth option be considered in place of the three options presented under Minor Card Restrictions within the Loan Policy. The library would institute a block on all minor cards and require that parents or legal guardians sign a waiver releasing the library from any liability for what the minor may check out in order to have the cards of their minors reactivated. The cards of the minors whose parents or legal guardians do not wish to sign the waiver would be deactivated. Those parents or legal guardians would have to use their own cards to check out materials for their minors moving forward. Michael added that the West

Bonner Library District had enacted a similar approach within the last year at the advice of their legal counsel. The trustees agreed to add it as a fourth option to consider under Minor Card Restrictions.

Katie expressed further concerns about restricting access for minors to the adult sections of the library as presented under Unattended Minors in the Behavior Policy. She cited the same reasons as above and also felt that there are not enough staff to enforce such rules. Michael thought that the recommendations were somewhat arbitrary and could be reworked at the next meeting to match what the board felt was more reasonable. Melisa recommended that the third step under Unattended Minors be updated to state that staff members will stay with an unattended minor until they are picked up or supervised by a parent or legal guardian.

Jim requested that the policies be added to the agenda for the May 22 meeting.

FY 2024-25 budget proposal: Michael noted that the budget proposal was somewhat flat and comparable with FY 2023-24. The only major request was for an additional \$10,000 to be added to the Materials line, making it \$200,000 in total. This was to assist with rising costs and the continual demand among patrons for more digital materials.

Motion to approve the FY 2024-25 budget proposal as presented, Katie; second, Steve. Approved.

Other Business: Katie gauged interest among the trustees for possibly assisting the Community Library Network with fundraising efforts as they look to reopen Post Falls Library after the extensive water damage that occurred in January. Hearing that the trustees were open to the idea, Katie will work with the Foundation to come up with a plan.

Next regular meeting – May 22, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room

Adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Priest