



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

December 6, 2023

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:

Kiki Miller, City Council Liaison
Ayla Frens, Student Representative
Lola Burns, Alternate Student Representative
Holly Stetson, Library Foundation
Tyler McLane, Public Services Librarian
Michael Priest, Library Director

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Jim Windisch at 4:00 p.m. City Council Liaison Kiki Miller joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

Public Comment: Marianna Cochran, Rathdrum, said that she had a vested interest in the library as a county resident and her group, Clean Books 4 Kids, was active during the recent City Council elections, engaging candidates and the community. She believes the library is advocating for the dissemination of explicit materials to minors. Ms. Cochran said that she will continue to draw public awareness to the issue. Kara Claridge, Coeur d'Alene, felt that the library was overemphasizing free speech and the notion of providing materials to all. She cited Kootenai County Sheriff Bob Norris' recent concerns about library materials and offered that the trustees and library administration should be preparing for the upcoming legislative session and possible changes in law. Ms. Claridge mentioned that she recently had two purchase requests for the children's collection denied, *She is She* and *He is He* by Ryan and Bethany Bomberger. She questioned the appropriateness of a soon to be released title that the library has pre-ordered, *Just Shy of Ordinary* by A. J. Sass. Ms. Claridge sees this as being viewpoint discrimination.

Consent Calendar: Steve asked for clarification on the State Grant and Federal Grant lines of the FY 2023-24 budget. Michael explained that \$5,000 listed within the State Grant line represented the anticipated income from grants, primarily those administered by the Idaho Commission for Libraries, that the library intended to apply for throughout the fiscal year. \$5,000 was consistent with the totals the library has received in recent years. \$38,983 listed within the Federal Grant line represented the total of the bonuses for full-time, non-exempt staff. City Council approved using the city's leftover federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the bonuses. Jim asked why the Computer Maintenance line of the budget was already showing over 50% spent. Michael responded that IT Coordinator Christopher Brannon placed orders for computer equipment early this fiscal year as part of the library's rotating 5-year replacement plan. Motion to approve the consent calendar, Katie; second, Ann. Approved.

Director's report: The Arts Commission approved the change of direction for the lower-level art project at their November 28 meeting. The library will proceed with the concept of adding decorative artwork to the exterior

concrete panels above the children's library. Michael will work with the Arts Commission subcommittee assigned to the project, as well as donor Paul Fleschner and Kevin Cole of Architects West, to run the Call to Artists application process.

The Education Committee of the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce presented the library with its A+ Education Award at the Upbeat Breakfast on November 14. Ann, Steve and Tyler McLane attended on behalf of the library.

The library has generously received support from Novelis, Inc. of Spokane Valley as part of their community programming initiative. Novelis has agreed to fund STEM-related activities, equipment and materials at the library totaling more than \$3,500.

Circulation Clerk Laurel Hoffman has accepted the part-time Reference Clerk position that was added this fiscal year and will start the new role on December 1. Her focus will be on outreach alongside Char Beach and Jessica Levy. Moving forward, Jessica will split her time between outreach efforts and the children's library, giving Youth Services Librarian Sharalee Howard some much needed support. Laurel will ensure that we retain the current staffing levels for outreach services.

City Council Liaison: Kiki said that a City Council decision on changing impact fees has been delayed until the new year. She anticipates that city departments will bring forward their budget items for the next fiscal earlier than previously as City Council looks further improve the budget planning process.

Student Representatives: Ayla said that the teen Creative Arts Club program that she attends is focusing on crocheting in December and she was happy to learn a new skill. She has noted more teens studying around the library recently given that it is finals week.

Friends: Michael shared that the Friends decorated the library for holidays. They considered library events in 2024 to assist with at their December 5 meeting, including whether to continue with the annual Shred Day given its relatively low attendance in recent years. They will make a final decision on that at their January 23 meeting.

Foundation: Holly reported that the Novel Destinations event on November 9, with Steve presenting his new book titled *Something Bright and Shiny*, was a success with around 80 attendees and more than \$1,500 earned for the Foundation. The Foundation's annual campaign has launched and is focused on providing updates to the teen areas of the library. The Foundation has raised over \$8,000 from the campaign so far and will conclude around the middle of January. The fundraising sale of art pieces donated by Duke Breitenbach continues to go well and has earned \$550. The Foundation is ready for the Muddy & Millie Holiday Singalong on December 9. The event will also feature the launch of the new Muddy & Millie picture book set in Hawaii.

Welcome Melisa Carper Bell: Melisa introduced herself to the board and mentioned that she and her family are avid readers and frequent library visitors. She is excited to see what her service as a trustee can do for the library and the community.

Subcommittee for election of officers: Steve volunteered to engage candidates for the board to elect as officers at the January 24 meeting.

Motion to have Steve consider candidates for the offices of Chair and Vice Chair and provide recommendations to the board at the January 24 meeting, Ann; second, Katie. Approved.

Other: Jim requested that City Attorney Randy Adams or another representative from the legal department be invited to future meetings as appropriate to discuss any pending state legislature related to library services. Kiki added that legislation was a large focus of her role on the Association of Idaho Cities Board of Directors and that she will present anything pertinent to the library board.

Next regular meeting – January 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room

Adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Priest