



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

May 25, 2022

Meeting held in Library Community Room and via Zoom

Trustees Present:

Katie Sayler, Board Chair, Library
Jim Windisch, Board Vice Chair, Library
Steve McCrea, Board Member, Library
Ann Smart, Board Member, Library
Fay Sweney, Board Member, Library

Others:

Kiki Miller, Council Liaison, Library
Melissa Searle, Reference & Technical Services
Librarian, Zoom
Michael Priest, Library Director, Library

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Katie Sayler at 3:56 p.m.

Presentation: Char Beach, Outreach Services, gave a presentation on the weekly literacy and STEM activities the library's outreach team have been conducting at the Northwest Expedition Academy (NEXA). Katie asked what kind of feedback the team had received from the students. Char said they conclude each session by asking "what did you learn?" and the enthusiasm of the students was clear to observe. Steve asked how the team gets through all of the school's classes. Char said that the schedule is on a rotational basis, moving through each grade level. Fay asked if the teachers attend the program as well. Char said that some do but more often it is a teacher's aide. She added that Principal Bill Rutherford does attend many of the sessions. Katie asked if the outreach team makes it clear they come from the library. Char said that they make every effort to do so. She talks about library services and can sign up students for library cards. Jim asked if staffing for outreach is becoming a challenge. Char said that the outreach team is solidly booked for programs and events throughout the week and finding time for additional opportunities has its challenges. The board collectively thanked Char and the outreach team for their hard work.

Public Comment: Coeur d'Alene resident Kara Claridge stated that the recent primary election results should be considered. She predicted that the topic of perverse materials within library collections would remain an issue for the next legislative session. Mrs. Claridge offered two preemptive solutions for the library. The first was to reclassify the children's library thematically so that parents and legal guardians could better navigate the collection and borrow materials from the areas they feel to be appropriate. The second was to restrict library cards for minors from checking out adult materials. Mrs. Claridge shared that she was aware of the library's participation in Pride in the Park on June 11. She questioned its billing as a family-friendly event and whether it was a suitable venue to be promoting library services.

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Library Hours: Monday – Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Board of Trustee Agendas & Minutes: cdalibrary.org/about/board-of-trustees/

In response, Steve noted that the library does not have the right to dictate and/or monitor the activities of its patrons. The library is additionally representative and supportive of all members of the community, including those who identify as being LGBTQ+. Katie stated that the library cannot serve its mission while denying open access to minors and sequestering parts of the collection. She also noted that the library attends many community events throughout the year to promote services and is open to those opportunities as staffing allows. Kiki wished to clarify whether the library was attending Family Day in the Park on June 10 as well as Pride in the Park on June 11 as some groups had circulated that they were the same event. The trustees understood that they are separate events and Char responded that the library will be at both.

Consent Calendar: Motion to approve, Steve; second, Ann. Approved.

Director's report: The Library of Things is tentatively scheduled to be released in early June. It ties in with a nationwide effort by libraries to provide non-traditional items for checkout that have a more practical use. Things that the average person may not necessarily own but could use from time to time, and that are relatively easy to maintain. Initial items include a metal detector, portable projector, badminton set, disc golf set, ladder toss set, yoga mat, and kites. These were funded through a donation of \$1,000 on Giving Tuesday in 2021 from STCU. All are currently being entered into the library catalog and processed. The room for the collection, the former Make-It Lab, is being prepared and will be adapted as the collection grows. Waivers, rules, and promotion are also being ironed out. The Summer Reading Program kick-off event on May 14 was scheduled to be a community kite fly in McEuen Park to promote awareness Mental Health Awareness Month. The library partnered with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the Kootenai Recovery Community Center and the Panhandle Health District for the event. Unfortunately, poor weather ended up interfering. Thirty or so people still stopped by to pick up kites and information.

The library has agreed to partner with the Idaho State Historical Society to showcase the Travelling Idaho Constitution from July 13 to August 26. This replica of the constitution is on the road throughout the year and the library will be its temporary location for North Idaho. The Historical Society will present an opening event on July 13 from 6-7 p.m. in the Community Room. The travelling constitution will then be transferred to the Nelson Room for public viewing.

Exterior access to the building was upgraded to the same automated system as City Hall and other City facilities. City Finance identified an opportunity through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a source to fund the project. It was previously suggested to City Council as a use for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. FEMA funding should also cover another former ARPA request to upgrade the lower level drinking fountain to a water bottle filling station. A timeline for that project is forthcoming.

Council liaison: Kiki shared that the Historic Preservation Commission received a presentation on the development of the replica of the Idaho constitution and had found it fascinating. She has been continuing her work with the Regional Housing and Growth Issues Partnership (rhgip.com), looking at the economic impact that housing demand and supply shortages can create. One notable outcome is a depleted pool of civic volunteers within the community due to people favoring economic opportunities over volunteerism. Kiki noted that City Council is preparing to start the FY 2022-23 budget process with a pre-budget workshop on June 2.

Katie reminded Kiki that the library can possibly assist in presenting information or collecting data for her various projects. Kiki replied she will keep the library in mind.

Friends: The Friends have generously provided funding for supplies and prizes for the Writer's Competition and Summer Reading Program.

Foundation: The Foundation is preparing for the Thursday, July 14 Jess Walter event and have set another fundraiser for October 1 featuring musical performances by Laura Sable and Bill Wiemuth. Members are busy promoting the Muddy & Millie sponsorship program.

Material Review Policy review: Michael presented an updated policy with all the changes recommended at the April 27 meeting. For the fifth step of the Material Review process, Katie thought that having the trustees hear comment and make a final ruling at the same open meeting was possibly unrealistic since the item may need to be tabled for further consideration. Jim proposed that the sentence in question be reworded to read "The trustees will make a final ruling on the material at that meeting or the next scheduled regular meeting". Motion to approve the Material Review Policy with Jim's suggested rewording, Steve; second, Jim. Approved.

Library Security and Patron Behavior Policy review: Michael presented the updated policy, renamed the Behavior Policy, that was tabled at the April 27 meeting. Katie wanted clarification on how library staff dealt with patrons sleeping within the library. Michael explained that it would be addressed if it was blocking access, disruptive, persistent, or taking up an excessive amount of space. Fay noted that a comma was missing from line A. 1., between the words "breaking" and "cutting". Motion to approve the Behavior Policy with the added comma as suggested by Fay, Steve; second, Fay. Approved.

Long Range Plan review: The trustees went through the plan, last updated in September 2019, determining the language, goals, and objectives that could be edited or removed. In terms of broader changes, Jim suggested removing all mention of "21st century" in the document since it is an outdated concept. Ann thought that the ninth goal titled "Service improvements answering identified community needs" was redundant. She noted that the topic was suitably covered by the second goal ("To maintain an environment that is welcoming and safe for library patrons and staff") and fifth goal ("To provide community members with increased access to library materials and services"). She therefore suggested removing the ninth goal and placing its three remaining objectives under the second and fifth goals instead. The trustees agreed. Michael will edit the document for the June 22 meeting.

Next regular meeting – June 22, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room and via Zoom.

Adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Priest