



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

April 27, 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:

Holly Stetson, Library Foundation, Library
Angela Flock, Young Adult Coordinator, Zoom
Michael Priest, Library Director, Library

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

Public Comment: Coeur d'Alene resident Kara Claridge said that she has been talking with more and more community members who share her concerns about harmful materials to minors being present in the library. She believes that woke culture is the cause behind an alarming shift in what is deemed acceptable content. This is reflected in the election of Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, who she views as a proponent of woke culture, as the American Library Association (ALA) president. Mrs. Claridge is interested to learn more about what booklists library staff consult when selecting materials for the collection. She concluded that the removal of \$3.5 million from the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) budget last legislative session was the result of ICfL's incompetence.

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

Director's report: Patrons are still getting used to the new hours, but initial verbal feedback has been positive. As of April 22, the library's average door count between 9-10 a.m. on weekdays has been 41 people per hour. Compare this to average door count of 15.5 people per hour between 7-8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, from June 2021 to March 2022. There has not been a noticeable impact on the door count between 10-11 a.m. This suggests that the earlier opening time is possibly appealing to a different set of patrons. The total door count on April 9 and 16 were approximately the same as the three previous Saturdays, which indicates that losing 5-6 p.m. has not had a detrimental effect. The 33rd annual Julie Meier Writer's Competition had over 100 entries, the best turnout for quite some time. The entries within each age group (Grades K-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12, Teens, Adults) are now being judged by a volunteer panel. Prizes for the winners are being donated by the Friends of the Library.

An Earth Day event was held on April 23 between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and had over 20 local organizations and groups providing information and activities in and around the library. An estimated 700 community members participated on the day.

The annual Summer Reading Program is kicking off on May 14. The outdoor theme of “A Forest of Possibilities” lends itself to plenty of programming opportunities and independent activities.

Friends: The document shredding event on April 9 drew solid attendance. The Friends of the Library hired a shredding truck from Devries Business Services and provided volunteer assistance.

Foundation: Muddy & Millie and author Susan Nipp made an appearance at the April 23 Spring Dash held by United Way. The Foundation is preparing for the Thursday, July 14 Jess Walter author event and fundraiser in the Community Room from 6 p.m. They launched their Muddy & Millie sponsorship program that allows local businesses to assist in funding author visits and book giveaways at local schools by Susan. Options range from \$500 down to \$100.

Material Review Policy review: Michael brought back edited versions of the policy and Request to Review Material form that included trustee suggestions from the March meeting. Fay wondered if there was a better term to use than “legal Coeur d’Alene residents”. Steve offered “patrons residing and domicile in Coeur d’Alene” as a more accurate description. It was agreed that Michael should seek assistance from City Legal on the wording. Steve presented three further edits. The first was changing line 3.b. to read: “No further action will be taken until a patron confirms they have read the material”. The second was editing the final sentence of line 4. of the second proposal to read: “The Library Director or designee will issue a written decision to the patron within 30 days.” The third was updating line 5. with the addition of the same procedure the Latah County Library District conducts: “At the meeting, the patron may present comments about the material in question. The Library Director will present a response at the meeting. The trustees will make a final ruling on the concern in open meeting and send a prompt written response to the patron.” Ann and Fay supported all these edits. The discussion turned to whether to retain the Material Review Committee as a step or modify the process to have the library director and selectors assume that role instead. The trustees were collectively in favor of removing the Material Review Committee and switching to having the director and selectors perform a review in its place. Jim recommended tabling the policy for the May 25 meeting, giving Michael time to update it with all the discussed changes.

2022-23 budget proposals: Michael’s main proposals for FY 2022-23 were increasing the library’s single part-time Reference Clerk position to full-time and a \$10,000 increase to the materials budget. All city departments had been told to include their previous American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding requests in their proposals. Therefore, the library’s upgraded HVAC system, quoted at \$177,000, was also included. The city has potentially identified other funding sources for the two other ARPA funding requests; automated building access and a water bottle filling station on the lower level. Steve inquired about the increase to the Computer Maintenance line from \$5,000 in FY 2021-22 to \$15,000 in FY 2022-23. Michael said that the line was increased to incorporate an ongoing computer equipment replacement plan constructed by IT Coordinator Christopher Brannon. It was achieved by moving funds around within the Services & Supplies category. Several of the other lines in that category have consistently come in under budget in recent years. Steve reiterated his desire for the library to consider adding Apple computer products for those patrons who prefer them. Michael said that he and

Christopher understand the concern but that it would simply be too time consuming and possibly too expensive to maintain two separate sets of programs and hardware. Katie asked for clarification on the process after the board approves the proposals. Michael explained that he is set to meet with City Finance in May. The proposals would then go onto City Council for consideration. Motion to approve the FY 2022-23 budget proposals, Steve; second, Jim. Approved.

Library Security and Patron Behavior Policy review: Michael presented an updated policy, renamed the Behavior Policy, for the trustees to consider. It contained several new additions that outline what has become standard procedure in recent times. Katie thought that laying out the policy clearly was beneficial to both patrons and staff. Steve asked whether revoking a patron's library card could be considered for certain behaviors. Michael said that it might be difficult to enforce and monitor, whereas issuing a trespass had the backing of the Police Department and their systems. Fay wanted further clarification on trespassing patrons. Michael explained that the library generally has the police issue 3-, 6- and 12-month trespasses depending on the severity of the behavior and/or the situation. It is usually reserved for patrons who are repeatedly disruptive to library operations. Due to a rewording of the proposed addition on line A. 3. vii. regarding skateboards, rollerblades, and kick scooters that the trustees had not had time to consider before the meeting, Fay recommended tabling the policy for the May 25 meeting.

Other: Ann and Katie suggested some items for the May 25 meeting. Ann would like a recap of the partnership with the Northwest Expedition Academy (NExA) from the library's outreach staff, and an update on the Library of Things and its items. Katie would like the library to explore what other libraries are doing regarding hybrid programs/meetings and the equipment they use, and she would like the trustees to revisit the library's 5-year plan and discuss potential updates. Jim asked if the library was a member of the ALA. Michael answered that it does not hold an organizational membership. Staff occasionally become members to pursue continuing educational opportunities. In any event, ALA standards and guidelines are widely accepted by libraries and library professionals. Fay asked if anybody had insight into why the proposed FY 2022-23 budget for ICfL was reduced by \$3.5 million at the end of the last legislative session, even despite the State Librarian reportedly agreeing to review objectional materials within the Idaho Digital eBook Alliance (IDEA) collection. None present had an answer. Fay asked if it would have an impact on the library's budget. Michael said that the main program that was impacted was ICfL's proposed broadband initiative in rural communities. The library typically only applies for smaller grants through ICfL and he thinks most of the regular opportunities will remain in place.

Next regular meeting – May 25, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room and via Zoom.

Adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Priest