



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

March 26 , 2025

Meeting held in Library Community Room

### Trustees Present:

Jim Windisch, Board Chair  
Steve McCrea, Board Member  
Melisa Carper Bell, Board Member  
Katie Sayler, Board Member  
Ruth Pratt, Board Member

### Others:

Holly Stetson, Library Foundation Manager  
Ayla Frens, Student Representative  
Elizabeth Westenburg, Library Director  
Tyler McLane, Librarian  
Dan English, Councilmember Liaison

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Jim Windisch at 4:00 pm

**Public Comment:** Hagen Walker, Hayden. First time speaking and wanted to speak on the item requested to be relocated, *Autobiography*. Book that he read and based on its subject matter he believes that it should continue being read by others. You can tell that it's very fictional and the story overall is very interesting, and it shows the perspective of a writer and how going through the writing process can be hard. Felt it helped him as a writer and when he was struggling to get in to reading. He found it very interesting and overall was a good story and would recommend other people read it too so he does not think it should be moved.

Teresa Birkett, Post Falls. As President of the Library Alliance of North Idaho was here to represent hundreds of the supporters for libraries. Took a moment to express her gratitude to the board for the dedication to libraries and wanted to extend appreciation to staff members and how they contribute to success. Efforts of both recognized and valued. Wanted to make a request on an important matter that affects the entire community. CLN is facing the prospect of losing access to the CIN and she shared she believes this would have a detrimental impact in all the libraries. She asked the board to write to the CLN trustees and share thoughts of how disassociating with the CIN a step is back for community.

Katie Sayler- comment from last meeting. The Pageturners book club that meets at the library and was advertised as open to 16-year-olds and up was an error, which was corrected that day immediately following the meeting. It is for adults, and we appreciate it when the public makes us aware. We had just transitioned from one software program to another and there was a digital error in the transmission from one to the other. As soon as we're made aware it was corrected. But it is important when the public makes us aware of something that's not accurate and we want to be accurate and what we do. So it's taken care of.

**Consent Calendar:** Steve had a question about the statistics to see about the Language collections. We will provide that in the next packet.

Melisa Carper-Bell made a motion to approve, and Ruth Pratt seconded. Motion carried.

**Director's report:** No questions about the report given or information in the board packet. Comments- Jim Windisch was very happy there was an outreach event at Venture High School. Katie Sayler mentioned how she felt "she had ran a marathon" after reading about everyone's work. She loved the video about the space program. She complimented the children's department on the programs they are doing that are creating learning.

**City Council Representative:** Dan English said Council is in the early budget process. They talked about meeting at some time to make sure they know what is happening and he knows a discussion about staffing will happen. They are getting regular updates but imagine a whole lot of uncertainty about what is happening at the national level. He is keeping his eye on that and anything that might directly impact the library will pass on.

**Student Representative:** Ayla Frens- There have been more people at Friday night club which combines gaming and art now. Multiple groups of people doing stuff - games and crafts and video games. Enjoying the stand-up desks in the Teen Zone. Has a stack of books for spring break next week.

**Friends:** Approved JD's request yesterday for a campaign for some yard signs that we're going to give out- we haven't figured out how to give out yet. And t-shirts that they will sell at the friends store.

**Foundation:** Holly Stetson -Earned over \$10,000 through the paddle raise event, Music of the Rivers. Will help with a program Sharalee will implement- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Novel Destination and there's no charge- April 10<sup>th</sup>. July 24<sup>th</sup>, Thursday Jess Walters will be here. June 1st his new book comes out. Calendar update- only a couple photos left to take. And the last one they would like everybody participate in- going to have everybody come and read with their book outside of the library and it will be done in the front cover. Holly will update everyone when it is scheduled.

**Unfinished business .** None

## **Agenda**

### **JD Presentation – Communications in the Library**

Works on the calendar, the newsletter and social media. Emails to a list of media that take in our programming every month and they put them in their newspapers or their magazines. I managed 60 to 90 programs per month every single month and it starts with a shared file. All of those programs go into our website calendar, and it goes into our newsletter. Give out about 500 paper newsletters every month sometimes. We're at about 4500 of all ages newsletter signups and 1500 children's newsletter sign ups . Schedule for types of posts (programs or new books or resource highlight). October is kind of far away, but we did get rid of the communication budgets entirely this last year and in the past it was \$2,000. Covers things like things like sticker packs and signage holders for signage or even technology. JD shared her process for all these things she does, the partners in the community and the importance of reach. Katie said excellent presentation and Melisa asked if there would ever be guest posts and she likes the "fun" ones.

**Communications Policy and Photo, Film, Recording Policy-** no changes. Update review date for website.

***Autoboyagrophy review -***

Jim Windisch asked for a motion related to the decision on the Materials Relocation Request. Steve McCrea made a motion to deny request. Melisa Carper-Bell seconded. Jim asked for discussion. Steve- this book is about a bisexual teenager who happens to be agnostic when he falls in love with a friend who's a member of the LDS Church. The protagonist is -at first antagonistic to the church partly because of his attitude towards the church but he learns about the LDS church and we come to learn that the that church recognizes same sex love but it doesn't sanction acts of physical love between people of the same sex and so it seems in exploring this conflict the scenes of kissing and touching are integral in the story. It illustrates the difficulty for experiences of a gay person or a bisexual person is trying between physical acts between two people who are looking for a way to express their love for each other. The book explores those difficulties and tries to examine the conflicts in each of the each of the stories characters and explores their deeply filled emotions. Then looking at the statute, Idaho codes states is in the definition of obscene materials that nothing contained is intended to include any matter which when considered as a whole and in context which is used has a serious literary artistic political or scientific value from minors. Steve thinks this book is to show that particularly for young adults that these are complicated issues and that you should keep an open mind while considering different religions. He thinks it has very serious literary and artistic value for minors and it allows children who are experiencing the same emotions or these problems to see that they're not alone so that's why it should stay in the teen section.

Melisa Carper-Bell read the book but focused on the report from staff on how the material was selected and placed. She believes that the book follows our material selection criteria and policy and is appropriately selected in its place.

Katie agreed with both comments. She said nothing in the book is voyeuristic and that was one of the criteria from the state code for a scene. Also the community as a whole has to be considered. The book has been in the collection since 2017 and no one has made a complaint. also the complaint was not made by a guardian or parent of the child but a grandmother. She thinks it's really meant for the young adult age group.

Ruth Pratt agreed and said the story was sensitively handled and so it should stay where the library staff put it. Jim Windisch said he was surprised and even biases of it being a teen romance, was surprised at what a serious literary work that it seems to be and he said he believes with the Idaho code section 18 - 1514 where it says that when the work is considered as a whole and in context in which it is used to test serious literary artistic political or scientific value for minors, it definitely checks that box.

There was no further discussion so there was a vote on the motion.

Unanimous to vote on not relocating the material *Auotbiography* and the request is denied.

Jim will write the decision letter for the requestor.

### **New Business**

Melisa Carper- Bell wanted clarification on where to write a letter. Elizabeth Westenburg told them as a board they could write one but she couldn't make a recommendation based on being on the board of CIN . Explained

there's process the CIN is going to have to do when it comes time to sign. Discussion at our next board meeting about the direction the Consortium is going based on the CIN meeting on April 16th is the Consortium meeting and then based on what happens there would be presenting you with the new joint Powers agreement.

Next regular meeting, **April 23rd, 2025** at 4:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room.

**Adjourned at 5:03.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Westenburg