



Billings Public Library Board Meeting

May 13, 2021

12:00 p.m.

Board and City staff present:

Peggy McSweyn, Chairperson	Roger Young	Cheryle Fisher	Andrea Horrell
Gavin Woltjer, Library Director	Trudi Paulson	Sue Bach	Jennifer Smith
	Hannah Stewart-Freeman, Assistant Director		Kelsie Rubich, Info. Systems Coordinator

Not Present:

David Darby, Vice Chair Lloyd Mickelson

Guests:

Debbie Willis, Friends of the Library	Leslie Modrow, Library Foundation	Chris Kukulski, City Administrator
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Public Comment

Woltjer introduced Chris Kukulski, City Administrator.

Chair's Comments

McSweyn introduced new board member Jennifer Smith when she came in.

Consent Agenda

- a. Motion and second to approve the February 11, 2021, minutes with changes. Approved.
Paulson/Bach

Reports

Friends, Debbi Willis

- Book sale coming in October.
- Pop-up sale in the Nook on June 4.
- Plenty of donations have been coming in.

Foundation, Leslie Modrow

- Modrow said the Foundation's focus is on the structure of the organization.
- The Foundation website is being updated.
- Carol will be retiring.
- One Book Billings finished strong, and the Saturday event was well attended.
- Food for Thought is on June 9 and 10. The conversations were unveiled yesterday. This year it will support the Lending Library Kiosk.

Genealogy Room, Woltjer presented for P.J. Smith

- Volunteers are available Monday through Thursday, 1:00 to 3:00 pm, to assist patrons.
- Last week, while the Elder Grove students were touring the library, the Forum volunteer invited them into the Genealogy Room. She received some good questions from the students.

Board Discussion

- a. **Masks in the library** – The email Woltjer previously sent to the Board with pertinent mask updates, as well as Darby’s response, was discussed. McSweyn called for a motion to remove the mandate requiring library patrons to wear masks in the building. Motion to rescind the mandate requiring patrons to wear masks in the library was issued. Seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Fisher/Horrell

Discussion continued prior to the vote, including mention of the CDC not requiring vaccinated individuals to wear masks indoors any longer. Woltjer explained if HB501 passes there will be no enforcement of wearing masks in public places. He said the BPL will not police the wearing of masks or provide masks to patrons once the current supply is exhausted.

- b. **AsPEN for Board Members** – McSweyn stated the importance of AsPEN and that Systems had provided training in the past on how to use the platform. She encouraged the Board to sign up. Rubich gave the board a “how to” handout and offered to set up one on one appointments if anyone needs assistance.
- c. **Board Retreat** – is usually held in October. McSweyn mentioned starting a group to plan the retreat and asked anyone interested to see her after the meeting. Woltjer explained the purpose of the retreat and what has been discussed in the past.

BPL Update

Kelsie Rubich, Interim Information Systems Coordinator:

- Twenty-eight new computers are currently being installed.
- All the public computers will have Deep Freeze installed on them.
- The Book Bike is coming back.
- A holds pick up locker is coming to the BPL.

Jamie Bratlie, Library and Facilities Coordinator (read by Stewart):

- The bookmobile saw 294 patrons onboard between April 7 and May 7. Some stops are very busy, and patrons are happy to be able to come back in.
- Senior Outreach is operating the same as previously reported.

Hannah Stewart-Freeman, Circulation and Reference:

- The Western Heritage Center small exhibit is up.
- Summer Reading starts June 1.

- BPL is partnering with the Friends to attend the YAM Summerfair at the end of June. Stewart-Freeman has ordered fans to handout. Both the Bookmobile and the Book Bike will be in attendance as well.
- The BPL is hosting a Hope Tree as part of Skyview High School senior Lizzie Berns' final project.

Gavin Woltjer, Director:

- Woltjer covered the Phase III re-opening details, to begin June 1.
- The BPL is going to install a pickup book locker onsite, with plans to have a few more throughout the community in the future.

Good of the Order (Discussion Only)

McSweyn explained the purpose of this new agenda item. The purpose is solely for discussion topics and ideas from the board. Action items are not to added here.

Smith mentioned she has access to many resources that assist with strategic plan development.

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m. The June meeting will be held in the Library Community Room.