

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2019

4:00 P.M.

The Board met in regular session at the South Valleys Library, 15650A Wedge Parkway, Reno, NV 89511

Chair Holland called the meeting to at 4:00 pm.

1) ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Amy Ghilieri, Wayne Holland, Zanny Marsh, Ted Parkhill, Jean Stoess

Board Members Absent: None

County Staff Present: District Attorney Herb Kaplan

Public Present: Mary Schmitt, Jenny Swartz, Deanna Ross, Jo Hawthorne, Lori Braun, Anne White

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Schmitt of Spanish Springs Needlework introduced herself, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and read from an updated letter provided to the Board prior to the meeting until her three (3) minutes were completed. The letter is attached to the end of the board packet for July 17, 2019.

Jenny Swartz of Spanish Springs Needlework introduced herself to the Board and continued to read the same letter above where Ms. Schmitt left off (*last 3 paragraphs*).

Ann White introduced herself, stating she works full-time, and is using personal leave in order to attend the meeting. She stated for the records that she understands that they (Knitting and Crochet Groups, Lifescapes, Chess and Bridge Clubs) are still seen as library programs and can be advertised everywhere else, just not the Explorer brochures. She stated she is a graphic designer and has been designing brochures like this for over 25 years. She said she recognizes space is a challenge and that the brochures are a way to connect with the community and are an effective tool for the Library System. She stated that as a designer, she is offering two (2) recommendations for the Library system brochure: 1. Donating/relegating one (1) page for all recurring groups/programs, using a single informational line for each group. 2. To decrease printing costs, she recommends using a lighter paper for inside pages but keeping the heavy gloss for the outside.

Lori Braun introduced herself stating she is in opposition of Drag Queen Story Time (DQST) at the Sparks Library. She said she is not opposed to drag queen or homosexual lifestyles, but is opposed to a gathering like this that, in any other setting, would require attendees to be 21 years of age. She stated she thinks it mocks women and their bodies and sends the worst message to young boys and girls. She said the library, who is supposed to serve families in the community, is presenting it as something good to children when she believes it is confusing to them. She said this is borderline pornographic in some parts of country and is sending the wrong message about sexuality. She said she wanted to go on record that she opposes it.

Ingrid Lee [*speaker did not sign in for correct spelling or name for record*] introduced herself stating she agrees with her friend Lori. She stated this bizarre and abhorrent lifestyle is being held as role model for our children. She said other events like this have included handout of sex materials/toys, prophylactics, and breast plates and provided classes for how to put make-up on boys. She stated it is being promoted as inclusivity and kindness but that there is a deeper agenda and believes there is a problem with normalization. She stated she knows not everyone believes in the Father, but she believes in the word of God and everyone will have a final judgement and accounting for their actions and that it is not kind to not warn people or let people know when there is something God does not approve of.

3) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 19, 2019

Board Secretary Tami Gaston noted two (2) corrections that need to be made, including; removal of Acting County Manager David Solaro from list of attendees, and correcting the minutes to add "Knitting and Crochet" where applicable when summarizing public comment and discussion regarding this program/group.

Trustee Parkhill stated that, in section 9 of the minutes, he was the one who thanked the staff for the metrics provided. Ms. Gaston stated she would review the audio recording and adjust the minutes accordingly.

On motion by Trustee Stoess, seconded by Vice Chair Marsh, motion which duly carried, the Board approved the meeting minutes from June 19, 2019 as amended. All in favor, none opposed.

4) OLD BUSINESS

None Agendized.

Trustee Parkhill asked if this was the point in which the Board could address previous public comment.

Director Scott advised that he had included Drag Queen Story Time and the Knitters and Crochet group in the Library Director Report so that discussion would be allowed.

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. WASHOE COUNTY LIBRARY PACKET OF LIBRARY POLICIES

Director Scott noted that the policies were included for annual information and review. This item is informational in nature with no action required. Any changes to policies throughout the year are brought before the Library Board of Trustees for approval.

6) REPORTS

a. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Scott stated it was a busy month for activities and highlighted the following:

- ARTown activities including Art in the Garden
- Gallery space exhibits at the libraries
- Spanish Springs program "Home of the Braves" about the Stewart Indian School had great representation and was well attended

Upon questioning by the Board regarding Drag Queen Story Time, Director Scott clarified the following:

- The event will include an unarmed security guard, clearly marked protesting zone, solid schedule for arrival/preparation of presenters, staff for room control, Storytime schedule (will include 2 different stories, a song, dance party) following by photo opportunities and news event. There will not be any media in the room during the event and stated that we cannot stream a full story time as it would violate copyright.
- He has received 259 responses (162 positive and 92 negative) to this event and the Library expects capacity crowds
- The Library was hoping to have a story time type of event at the Pride Festival this year; however due to the community responses of the Drag Queen Story Time, the performers have become popular and we are hoping for something at the festival next year.
- All Library events have signage approved by legal counsel posted at the programs entrances informing attendees that photos may be taken so they have the opportunity to avoid them if desired. Additionally any photos of a single child require guardian approval.
- The Drag Queen Story Time idea was put together in October 2018. The event was included in the Summer Explorer brochure, which was distributed mid-May 2019. The single page flyer was distributed in June 2019 and Library personnel began to receive responses on the event a week later. Research showed that most of the received responses originated from Nevada Family Alliance. The Library System did not solicit any opinion or response.
- The Drag Queen Story Time program and presenters have been vetted through Library programming procedures and staff. The presenters of this program work with children in the community.

During questioning of Director Scott on the Drag Queen Story Time program, Trustee Parkhill referred to the Library Events and Programming Policy clarifying that the Library's policy was followed and that the Drag Queen Story Time program appears to meet the criteria outlined in the policy. He also stated that patrons can elect to not attend any programs that the Library holds. He also compared the opposition to this program as similar to opposition to the collection issues presented by patrons.

Director Scott reiterated Knitting and Crochet programs have not been cancelled. He clarified that space issues, cost and confusion between volunteer run and library run programs in the winter brochure led to the removal of volunteer run programs being included to the current summer brochure. Director Scott stated the volunteer run programs can still be found online.

Upon questioning by the Board, Director Scott:

- Stated that he believed the summer brochure directs people to view additional programming to the Library website.
- The only volunteer run groups included in the summer brochure were book groups.
- The summer brochure is only the 3rd of its kind created and only the winter brochure included volunteer run groups
- None of the volunteer run groups directly contacted him regarding their concerns.

Additional questions from Trustee Parkhill regarding the advertisement, brochure and excluded volunteer run groups will be followed up directly with Director Scott.

Development Officer and PIO Andrea Tavener introduced herself and informed the Board that there are many groups that meet regularly in the meeting rooms system-wide. She stated that what we do for one, we would do for all.

b. COLLECTIONS UPDATE

Collections Manager Debi Stears stated that, although she has provided information about circulation trends and increases in digital materials check outs, she realized that she has not provided an update on other accesses provided by the internet branch to include checkout of digital magazines. The Library System has seen a 92% increase in this area. Through our vendor, RB Digital, Washoe County Library's most popular magazines checked out include the Economist, Star and National Enquirer. The system also offers to automatically check out next one subscription when you read a magazine online. She encouraged the Board to check it out.

Ms. Stears also advised the Board of the down side of reliance on electronic materials. She explained that physical items purchased are owned by the Library for the duration of the life of that item, but the Library is only paying for a license (access) when purchasing digital or electronic materials. Ms. Stears stated that as the Library System invests in electronic materials, our hands are tied to what we can do with those materials. She also explained that electronic materials can be limited based upon the provider. She provided an example with popularity of The New Yorker, Better Homes and Gardens, and Martha Stewart Home Living not being available to Washoe County Library patrons electronically as another competing vendor purchased exclusive rights to them and are the only vendor authorized to allow access.

Ms. Stears informed the Board that she is concerned about current and future licensing of electronic materials for several reasons. Some publishers have started having access expire after two (2) years while other publishers allow us to have a limited number of checkouts before the license expires. As publishers move to these pricing models, costs will increase. The Library System has more than 8,000 patrons downloading ebooks monthly.

Publishers' Weekly recently published an article encouraging public libraries to advertise the good they do and the access provided for everyone through them. She stated she would forward the article to the Board.

Upon questioning by the Board, Collection Manager Stears:

- Stated that Director Scott has been fantastic as he has increasing the collection budget from \$600k to \$1M.
- Stated it is shocking how much of the collection budget goes to digital collection and how it affects the physical collection.
- Confirmed there are a variety of digital material vendors, but that RB Digital had a pricing model that allows Washoe County Library System to carry more titles.

Chair Holland asked Ms. Stears to work with Director Scott to provide information at a future Board meeting about the rising costs of digital materials so that the Board can be aware of what the future of the collection budget could look like.

c. YOUTH SERVICES AND LIBRARY EVENTS UPDATE

Director Scott referred the Board to the provided staff report stating that the Library System has seen a 10% increase in Summer Reading Program participants compared to last year at the same time. He said the Library System is still watching numbers to see if we need more school outreaches next May. He informed the Board that many of the library branches have met their anticipated number of hours or total books read (for rockets to reach the moon displays) and many have the rocket ship heading home.

- North Valleys Branch Manager Jonnica Bowen introduced herself to the Board and informed the Board that North Valleys Library anticipated 200,000 reading minutes to reach the moon. As of the time of the meeting, North Valleys were at 185,000 minutes read as a community and are sure the rocket will return home.

d. TACCHINO TRUST EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Director Scott informed the Board that Washoe County received reimbursement for furniture and fixture expenditures for the Downtown Reno Library renovation. He stated that the Tacchino Trust has a remaining balance of around \$460K for renovations for the Sparks and Northwest Reno libraries. Director Scott stated he continues to request matching funds every budget cycle and is down to only requesting the County replacing carpeting at each branch.

e. BOARD TASK REPORT UPDATE

Upon request by Board Secretary Tami Gaston, the Board agreed that future agendas and Board packets need only include outstanding tasks, but that completed tasks will be continue to be retained.

Director Scott updated the Board on the outstanding items as follows:

- Stated he would get the Acting County Manager David Solaro in hopes to provide a update at either the August or September Board meeting
- Stated that County Security Administrator should have received the budget update and that he would contact him to return to a future meeting
- He would update the Board for issued child cards at September meeting
- Due to closures and extended duration of the Downtown Reno renovation, statistical information from June through September/October would be reported at a fall Board meeting with a comparison report provided.
 - Trustee Parkhill stated that sounded good to him.

7) STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

8) PUBLIC COMMENT

Lori Braun introduced herself and stated she had a point to make about correspondence with Director Scott. She stated she tried to call and left 3 messages with staff as well as sending an email. She stated she never received a call back or reply to email and neither did her husband.

9) BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Parkhill welcomed new Trustee Amy Ghilieri, stating they had all been in her shoes and they were willing to help answer any questions.

Trustee Ghilieri provided a brief introduction stating she is in her 15th year of teaching history at NSHE. She stated she has a 9-year old daughter and they are both avid readers. She said her specialty is History of the book as a material object.

10) **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Holland adjourned the meeting at 4:54 pm.