



**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023 | 4:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING**

The Board met in regular session in a virtual format via Zoom webinar.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Perez assumed the gavel in the absence of Chair Amy Ghilieri. Vice Chair Perez called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2) ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

Frank Perez	Vice Chair
Lea Grace	Trustee
Al Rogers	Trustee
Vacant	Trustee

Absent:

Amy Ghilieri	Chair
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County Staff:

Jeff Scott	Library Director
David Solaro	Assistant County Manager
Brandon Price	Deputy District Attorney

3) PUBLIC COMMENT

Deputy District Attorney Brandon Price reminded the audience of the rules regarding public comment and decorum by reading them aloud, noting these rules were included on the cover pages of every Library Board of Trustees agenda under the paragraphs “**Public Comment**” and “**Response to Public Comment**”.

Drew Rebar was invited to make public comment via Zoom multiple times, but the microphone icon on his end showed he was muted; he appeared to be having difficulty resolving this issue. During the meeting, staff reached out to him via email to offer him a chance to submit a written statement or comment in case he was not able to make a live comment. He was later able to get through successfully during Agenda Item 4, Approval of Meeting Minutes, and it was recommended he be allowed to make comment on any matter (whether general or specific to Agenda Item 4) due to the previous technical difficulties. (*See his comment under Agenda Item 4.*)

The following members of the public spoke regarding their opposition to Drag Queen Story Time (DQST) events: Nichelle Hull; Bruce Parks; Valerie Fiannaca; Sandie Tibbett; Reva Crump; Drew Reibar; Janet Butcher; Joanie Hammond; Craig Newton; Bill (last name not given); Danny Hart; and an **unknown female who did not provide her name (listen to make sure I have her in the right column – for or against DQST).**

Reasons cited by the above commenters for their opposition of DQST events included:

- Concerns that DQST events were adult in nature and inappropriate for children or public libraries
- A desire to see individuals other than drag performers leading story time events
- Religious or moral beliefs opposing LGBTQ+ themes; desire for a return to traditional values
- Fear that DQST events exposed youth to sexualized themes or content, or were intended to introduce children to this content in a manner intended to ‘groom’ them for abuse
- Belief that only parents/families should teach their kids about sexuality/gender
- Concerns that such events would cause gender confusion or loss of innocence in young children
- Opposition to the use of public facilities to host events of a controversial nature
- Doubts regarding the value or educational benefit of DQST programming

In addition to comments regarding his opposition to DQST events, Bruce Parks stated he wanted to see at least one conservative member appointed to the Library Board.

The following members of the public spoke in support of the Library System and DQST events: Alicia Linsey Deitrich; Nathan Noble; and Jennifer Howard.

Reasons cited by the above commenters for their support of DQST events and the Washoe County Library System included:

- Appreciation for the general creativity, inclusiveness, and range of library programming available
- Compliments regarding the libraries’ devoted and welcoming staff
- Gratitude for the Library System’s efforts to celebrate diversity, inclusiveness, and acceptance
- Increased awareness of social issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community, including children & families
- Belief that the freedom to read was an essential right and library materials and events, within reason, should not be censored unless blatantly obscene
- Belief that libraries were public spaces meant for everyone, including minorities
- Appreciation that events were conducted in a safe environment with positive role models and the support and encouragement of families

4) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

There was discussion and comments from Bruce Parks, Reva Crump, and Vice Chair Frank Perez regarding corrections which needed to be made to the June 21, 2023 meeting minutes before they could be

approved, including:

- Removing former Trustee Ann Medaille and Trustee Al Rogers, whose term did not begin until July 1, 2023, from the list of attendees,
- Correcting the name of the Deputy District Attorney in attendance at the meeting in question, and
- Correcting the arrival time for Vice Chair Perez, upon which a quorum was established.

On motion by Vice Chair Perez, seconded by Trustee Moser, which motion duly carried, the Board decided to table the approval of the June 2023 Library Board of Trustees Meeting minutes in order for the above-listed corrections to be made. All in favor; none opposed.

5) OLD BUSINESS

None

6) NEW BUSINESS

a. **Presentation:** Washoe County Library Strategic Plan Update by Library Director Jeff Scott

Director Jeff Scott discussed updates to the Washoe County Library Strategic Plan, including:

- The recent installation of book machines,
- A news story about the Sun Valley self-service kiosk,
- Information regarding the vandalism of the book kiosk in Cold Springs and repairs planned,
- A ribbon cutting for the kiosk in Cold Springs once it was repaired,
- A ribbon cutting to be held July 25 in Gerlach and information regarding the last mile fiber project
- The summer Kids Café program which allowed children to receive free meals during summer break
- Zoom Rooms being expanded and installed at the Sierra View and Sparks libraries,
- Baby's First Library Card program,
- Attendance at recent Drag Queen Story Time events,
- Americans in the Holocaust exhibit at the Northwest Reno Library,
- Items accomplished by the Strategic Plan in 2022 and 2023,
- The next goals the Library System would be focusing on, including the upcoming tax renewal initiative (more information would be discussed at the August meeting), and
- Updates regarding the ADA restroom and family restroom construction at the Downtown Reno Library.

Trustee Moser inquired about the legal kiosk; Director Scott explained these were in the North Valleys and Incline Village branches and could provide video assistance to patrons looking for legal information since those branches were the furthest from the Law Library and legal resources available in Reno.

Trustee Moser thought it would be nice to have more information at the next meeting; Director Scott said

he would provide a more detailed report for the Board soon.

Rogers – kudos to Scott, making progress on strategic plan goals. Q – zoom rooms and state lib grant, is there a typical match for state/fed? JS – not standard, sometimes they ask for a match amount for marketing or advertising. Traditional LSTA cycle is \$75k once per year competitive cycle, and also \$10K mini grants. Had extra money this year, Jamie put that together quickly, zoom rooms larger 4 person rooms we were able to win those.

Rogers – any programming determining what will be put on by lib, what is being done or what do you do when we have events that could have conflict? Assuming sheriffs dept on site or in the wings if necessary to assist?

JS – ben west security coordinates w Allied and sheriff, sparks pd, and reno pd as well as NREC? Looking for security threats at the event. Last year proud boys tried to disrupt, came back w weapon when unsuccessful, we learned a lot and had deputies drive by several times sparks PD also interacting w public and try to keep things calm. Can be scary for kids and families, but we take every effort to ensure safe and productive.

Rogers – next strategic plan cycle, is there an outside resource to brainstorm to start process? What happens next? JS – two processes to create SP, interviews w staff, comm and stakeholders; also expanded to interviews & surveys, over 1200 responses, feedback from Board as well. Board will take survey and have opportunity to discuss what want to see at next plan. At tail end fewer action items because we focus on much up front, give extra time to deal w other issues. Bookmobile saga kind of hung up. Next year will start working on new plan for future. Tax initiative work mainly first.

Rogers – tax initiative, that's the biggest thing on our plate for long term. Opportunities w that tax.

Moser – what were issues w getting the bookmobile by Mid Aug? JS we were awarded the grant, tried to get paperwork in, Board has to approve the grant before we can start spending money, but State didn't send us the paperwork in time, tried to ask Cap Ford to keep the vehicle on hand. Things happen at end of the fiscal year waiting on state library to give us the info. Supply chain issues. Ford Transit van, bought shelving works specifically only with this van – waiting for approval to make that happen at the Aug bcc.

b. Discussion and Approval of Library Board of Trustee Bylaws for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Reva Crump gave public comment regarding Bylaws

– hope you have the red and blue copy, may affect how you vote. Article 2 org memb secd B.5, word MAY being changed to SHALL. If keep MAY it's appropriate, if trustee is asked to do such but can't require of them. Article 4 meetings section a – when using suggested verbiage change in red, chair sole discretion as to meeting time without input of other trustees. If unsavory person gets chair position, don't have to consider the other trustees if you change it to this option. All should have a vote to the time held. Art 4 sect I, permanently removing pc at end of meeting, board committing to hear at beginning and on every action item, their choice, but will be committed for the future. Art 4 sect L, suggest putting period after the word Annually in the 4th line, accomplish same thing without excess verbiage in bylaws, ...reviewed annually, Board may decide in that year Gives freedom to flex when its convenient for the board. 5:27pm

NV Patriots Bruce Parks gave public comment regarding Bylaws

– section 4 paragraph J, each body established rules to conduct meetings, using ambiguous language, disingenuous, but may get into conflict in future if not clearly delineated what rules will follow – Roberts, masons, you must adopt a firm set of rules. Lang not consistent w establishing rules to conduct meetings. Understand less formal in the past, but recommend you consider changing language back to original. Also point out bylaws were not available in the original packet that was put out on Friday. Again back to the OML violation/ethics violations. To be brought up at a different time. Rec adopt firm set of rules.

Library Board Comments:

Al – read bylaws, noted not holding anything within bylaws to a specific month, keep to annual review, I think that's a good approach to have flexibility to review annually but not by any specific month (like June).

Frank – remove June?

Al – at least one per calendar year. To keep it a working document that can continue to evolve.

Frank – suggested amendment to bylaws, give Board ability to review bylaws within the year. I don't oppose that.

Moser – should we remove? Or amend again in a few weeks?

Frank – Ghilieri is Board member presently and based on BCC maybe 2 months, she is still Chair just not present today. Don't have issue leaving her name on this bc she is still a board member today. Are you still ok with 5pm? Hoping to change.

Moser – in favor. Rogers – no issue w that.

Frank – move meeting time to 5pm, bylaws allow us to move to virtual meeting, clearly stated and also in NRS. Look at subsection 4, meeting times can be set at discretion of chair. I suggest Chair G make that determination whether 4 or 5pm, though I prefer, it should be up to the Chair. Any issue w way subsection 4 is written (asking Trustees). As it stands, it's the chairs call. I'm ok w that.

Rogers – no issue w that.

Brandon – comment the supporting materials posted w agenda – under 241.020, ss 11, supporting materials must be posted lib website at time materials provided to trustees, under that statute no requirement materials be posted 3 days in advance, as long as made available to public at same time as available to trustees, it complies.

Frank – making notes, include Board member Rogers amendment – remove June to just say annually. If no other suggestions, edits, motion – including Rogers suggested amendment?

Al – motion to approve w amendment as presented to strike the month of June in section to reflect bylaws would be reviewed on an annual basis with no stipulation of month.

Frank – sec 4 subsection ...

Brandon clarifies – mtn to approve proposed minutes with exception in ss 4 L to state ANNUALLY.

Motion by Trustee Rogers, seconded by Trustee Moser to approve with amendment as presented to strike the month of June in the bylaws to reflect that the bylaws would be reviewed on an annual basis, with no stipulation as to a specific month.

6) REPORTS

a. Library Director Update by Jeff Scott [Non-Action Item]

Library Director Jeff Scott provided a verbal update to the Board, and briefly discussing topics including a recent mercury spill discovered at the Spanish Springs Library branch and resulting HAZMAT cleanup efforts; Board correspondence and articles which had been included in the packet for review; and information on how book challenges worked.

Trustee Al Rogers asked whether there would be any Library-related presentations at the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meetings in August.

Director Scott stated Library Collection Development Manager Debi Stears would provide a report to the BCC regarding the Library System's collection development and material selection processes.

b. South Valleys Library Presentation by Branch Manager Julie Ullman [Non-Action Item]

Branch Manger Julie Ullman reviewed a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was included in the Board packet.

Following the conclusion of her presentation, Vice Chair Frank Perez noted his family had signed up for his son's library card at the South Valleys Library branch. He thanked Ms. Ullman for her update.

Trustee Moser stated she loved seeing how many community members really enjoyed and appreciated the services provided by the libraries, particular services for seniors, veterans, and women. She suggested considering possibly incorporating services for Americorp or Peace Corp servants in the future.

c. Internet Librarian Presentation by John Andrews [Non-Action Item]

Library Director Jeff Scott explained Internet Librarian John Andrews was currently out sick and was not available to do his presentation; he requested the item be tabled for a future meeting. Vice Chair Perez agreed this could be postponed for a meeting at some point in the future.

7) STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

8) BOARD COMMENTS

Vice Chair Perez discussed the BCC's decision not to reappoint Amy Ghilieri ...

The BCC did not vote to reappoint Ghilieri, however, she will serve as Chair until a replacement is found. I estimate she may serve as Chair for maybe two months or longer depending on how vacancies go. Member Medaille did submit resignation; did not state a reason and wished the Board the best of luck moving forward in endeavors and efforts. Want board to start thinking about any interest by Board members to become the Chair. I will say I can't describe my thankfulness and admiration for Chair Ghilieri; she was a member before I joined, long before negative comments began about specific programming. She was a strong member, always asking great questions, she is a PhD, doctorate/professor of History, and friend of mine, I am going to miss her. Opens two vacancies. Whoever the new members are, we will welcome them; as always said, important to realize we are Trustees in a voluntary role and serving—ok diff in opinion, but when becomes a problem is when anything violent or conflict involving violence occurring. That is a problem. OK to have different perspectives about certain items, but I will say that I am keeping track of the conflict and taking into account when we're looking at different types of programming or things of that nature. Just my thoughts on it. Thank Ghilieri again and next time she is present – I did tell the DA, reason we weren't able to be in person at SO lib was conflict with meeting room. So public knows, that was the reason for virtual meeting.

Trustee Rogers – thank Perez for running great virtual meeting today, look forward, lot to learn. Getting out, interacting with Director and staff, and learning as much as I can. Think some good background that will help in that endeavor, look forward to getting involved with teams and initiatives important to the Board and the community to shape libs for the future.

Trustee Lea Moser stated everyone had a right to voice their opinions and she applauded their civic engagement, ...

Moser –believe we should protect certain freedoms, that includes certain programming we believe should be incorporated in the lib sys as part of that freedom. Ghilieri did an amazing job, the meetings I attended at some points did become violent and scary and she managed them with ease. Welcome Trustee Rogers and hope to see you next month in person.

Frank – to Rogers, little info on who you are? Bio?

Trustee Al Rogers thanked Vice Chair Perez for running the meeting and he stated he looked forward to interacting with Library Director Jeff Scott and branch staff, and learning as much as possible about the Library System, in order to help the Board and the community to shape and support the libraries for the future. Trustee Rogers also provided a brief summary of his experience and education:

Rogers – gave a little info on self last month, but in community over 40 yrs, attended univ here, stayed on to start career at teaching at Bishop Manogue and coach, worked at C of R, parks and rec, co mgrs. Office, background in some budget and operations, look to Dir Scott and trustees for policy and other experience. Make libraries continued community asset. Thank and look forward to a good few mos getting off the ground.

9) ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Perez adjourned the meeting at 6:16 PM.

Pending Board Approval