



## Billings Public Library Board Meeting

March 10, 2022

12:00 p.m.

### Board and City staff present:

David Darby, Chair  
Jennifer Smith  
Peggy McSweyn  
Gavin Woltjer,  
Library Director

Andrea Horrell, Vice Chair  
Staci Samuelson  
Lloyd Mickelson  
Hannah Stewart-Freeman,  
Assistant Director

Trudi Paulson  
Cheryle Fisher  
Roger Young  
Jamie Bratlie,  
Library & Facility Coordinator

### Not Present:

Kelsie Rubich, Info. Systems Coordinator

### Guests:

Leslie Modrow, Library Foundation

### Public Comment

None

### Chair's Comments

Darby recommended watching the video "Trust Me" from the Getting Better Foundation. He said it is about how to handle misinformation in the world today coming from media, social media, etc.

### Consent Agenda

- a. Motion and second to approve the Consent Agenda. All in favor. Paulson/McSweyn
- b. Motion and second to approve the February 2022 minutes as written. All in favor. Paulson/McSweyn

### Board Discussion

- a) Board Goals: The board discussed what goals they want finalized for this year. Horrell inquired how the board goals are different from library goals. Darby explained the board goals are specifically items the Board wants to, and can, accomplish separate from the library goals. There was discussion regarding the difference between the Board's goals and the Board's annual report to the County. After some debate, the Board settled on three goals to further research and decide on, which Horrell condensed:
  - 1. Continuing Education – encourage the Board to be State Library certified through ASPeN, as well as engaging in other educational opportunities. Darby asked McSweyn to research what is a reasonable expectation for this goal. Woltjer's follow-up email noted that at 6 credit hours per

year a member would be “credentialed by year three of this goal. These trainings would be a mix of MLA, ALA, and other library association offerings.”

2. Engage in Library Events – the Board can check the new Library Calendar and engage in library events to support the library and become more aware of what the library offers. Woltjer said he could send links to the newsletter, calendar, etc.
3. Increase Library Patronage – by advocating for the library outside the library. Darby asked Fisher, Horrell, and Samuelson to consider specific ideas for this goal.

## **BPL Updates**

### **a) Management Updates:**

Hannah Stewart-Freeman, Assistant Library Director

Stewart-Freeman told the Board her staff members are very busy with current and upcoming projects and programs:

- Over 180 kids combined during Story Times last week.
- Thinking Money exhibit will be leaving on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit was very well received.
- Plant Wildflowers program will begin soon with seed bombs, Take and Make Kits, as well as many other informational items, etc.
- There are 10 authors booked in the next five months, including four coming before the next board meeting.

Jamie Bratlie, Library and Facility Coordinator: Bratlie said the FY2023 budget process is her main priority currently.

Gavin Woltjer, Library Director

- Woltjer told the Board the suggested policy changes are currently with the City Legal Department.
- He said the ELT will be in meetings all day tomorrow and Saturday to set the City’s priorities.
- Woltjer said plans have been finalized – the BPL will have a Seed Library. It will be small this year, with expectations that it will “grow”!
- Express Lockers: Woltjer shared the Power Point presentation that he gave to Council on Monday. The next locker will be placed at St. Vincent’s Heights clinic on Wicks Lane. This locker will be one size larger than the current one outside the library. The BPL is the first in Montana to offer this service. Woltjer has heard from libraries in Montana, North Dakota, Utah, and Idaho reaching out for more information about the lockers.

## Reports

Leslie Modrow, Foundation, updated the Board:

- Food for Thought is planned for June 9<sup>th</sup>, finger crossed that it will be live and in the Library.
- The second Books and Brews was a huge success.
- The Foundation is working on the Royal Johnson Forum in September.
- Modrow said they are currently working toward the third book locker funding.

Friends of the Library

- The FOL is having a Pop-up sale this Saturday from 9-2.

Genealogy Room, Gavin Woltjer for P.J. Smith

- The Genealogy Room is now open Monday through Friday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

## Good of the Order (Discussion Only)

None.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

McSweyn/Horrell