



BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

April 14, 2022

12:00 p.m.

Board and City Staff present:

David Darby, Chair

Lloyd Mickelson via Zoom

Gavin Woltjer,

Library Director

Kelsie Rubich,

Info. Systems Coordinator

Andrea Horrell, Vice Chair

Staci Samuelson

Hannah Stewart-Freeman,

Assistant Director

Trudi Paulson

Cheryle Fisher via Zoom

Jamie Bratlie,

Library & Facility Coordinator

Absent:

Jennifer Smith

Peggy McSweyn

Roger Young

Guests:

Leslie Modrow, Foundation

Cheri Anderson, FOL

P.J. Smith, YGF

Public Comment

None

Chair's Comments

Darby asked the Board if they have anything more to add regarding the Strategic Planning to please email all four members of the subcommittee.

Consent Agenda

- a. Motion and second to approve the March 2022 minutes with changes. All in favor. Paulson/Horrell

Board Discussion

- a. Board Goals: The board discussed and made some minor adjustments to the wording of their goals. Motion and second to approve the Board's goals. All in favor. Horrell/Samuelson

BPL Updates

- a. Meet the Staff: Stewart-Freeman introduced Joe Lanning, Reference Librarian. Lanning shared with the Board some of the projects he has worked on, including digitizing the library's fine art collection, so all patrons will have access to it. Lanning said reference librarians are the front face of any information a person is seeking. Samuelson asked how a patron inquires about the information they are seeking. Lanning answered in person, on the phone, or by email.
- b. BPL Strategic Plan update: Woltjer told the Board he has been meeting with Community Partners, and still has about two dozen more meetings. The ELT is meeting today, and he will go over the Plan with them as well. Woltjer said some college and City internships are being created through this process too. He has heard repeatedly some of the new offerings that were created because of COVID are now becoming expectations, such as the hot spots. He said some things may have to sunset to continue, and expand, the new offerings. Woltjer said he will present the Strategic Plan to the Board at the June meeting. He will email it prior to the meeting, so the Board can review it and be prepared to provide feedback at the June meeting. Woltjer mentioned the last Market

Segmentation Analysis was done before he came to the BPL. He feels a new analysis needs to be completed before the next strategic planning process. Data of the new services, especially the book lockers, will be significant.

c. BPL Management update:

- Jamie Bratlie, Library and Facility Coordinator: Bratlie said she is currently focused on budget and assisting Woltjer with the Council presentation.
- Kelsie Rubich, Information Systems Coordinator:
 - Library Calendar went live April 1. Library Calendar meets the goal “Make Access Happen” as patrons can now reserve a room themselves.
 - The bike library will be back on the road in June. Four or five staff members have already volunteered to work on the bike. Horrell asked if people can sign up for library cards at the bike, which Rubich replied yes to.
 - On May 3, Senior Outreach will be back to normal operations.
 - The BPL Cataloguer Librarian is retiring after 33 years with the BPL. The assistant cataloguer has been hired to fill his position.
- Hannah Stewart-Freeman, Assistant Director: Stewart-Freeman said the first annual Library Con will be held April 23. There will be author visits, a gaming panel, a green screen, a costume contest, and some custom cars coming, such as Kit and 2 delorians, as well as other fun experiences. The plan is to grow this program over the next years. Stewart-Freeman also noted there are currently eight authors lined up through September. Woltjer added there is a good mix of fiction and non-fiction authors.

Reports

a. Foundation, Leslie Modrow:

- The landscaping project is underway and should be completed by June 1. There will be petroglyphs engraved in the boulders and plaques by the plants with the plants’ Crow names on them.
- Food for Thought is scheduled for June 9. It will be held in person this year with 20 tables.
- The Royal Johnson Forum is scheduled on September 13. Some events will be at the BPL and some will be at MSUB Petro Hall.

b. FOL, Sheri Anderson: The last Friends book sale was very successful. Thanks to Sue Bach and the Book Nook people!

c. YGF, P.J. Smith: Smith said there were 17 visitors in March, which is almost double what they have been seeing. Volunteers staff the genealogy room Monday through Friday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Smith said the Forum’s classes have not been well attended, so they need to advertise better to get the word back out about the classes. She is planning a program in May or June – something like “Finding Your Roots.” More to come on that.

Good of the Order

Mickelson appreciated being able to attend the meeting via Zoom.

Adjournment

Motion, second, and approved to adjourn.

1:05 pm

Mickelson/Paulson