



BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

April 13, 2023
12:00 p.m.

Board and City Staff present:

Jennifer Smith, Chair	Staci Samuelson, Vice Chair	Lawrence Klee
Roger Young	Peggy McSweyn	Trudi Paulson
David Darby		
Gavin Woltjer, Library Director	Jamie Bratlie, Library & Facility Coordinator	Jaclynn Reaves, Patron Services Manager

Absent:

Cheryle Fisher	Susan Plath
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Guests:

Clare Young, Friends of the Library	Kenzie Lombardi, Library Foundation	PJ Smith, Genealogy Forum
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Public Comment

None

Chair's Comments

Smith noted Plath is attending sessions at the MLA Conference. She looks forward to what Plath will bring back to the Board at next month's meeting. Smith also commented that the Friends' sale in the Community Room has a lot of cool stuff.

Consent Agenda

- a. Motion and second to approve the March 2022 minutes. All in favor. Klee/Darby

BPL/Mgmt Updates

- a. Gavin Woltjer, Director: Woltjer said the BPL hosted the opening reception for the MLA Conference and the Montana Book Awards on Wednesday. He said the events were well attended with approximately 70 people at the reception and 40 staying for the awards ceremony. Woltjer thanked the Foundation and FOL for sponsoring the event.

Woltjer told the Board BPL staff is presenting at the MLA Conference. Librarian Lanning hosted the session "How to Bring Video Games to Your Library." A staff group comprised of Kelsie Rubich, Taylor Arnold, Victoria Cassou, Jaclynn Reaves, and Liz Fellerer hosted a presentation on the Bike Library. Woltjer also added that the Bike Library, including a picture, was mentioned in a Book Riot article about mobile libraries around the world.

Woltjer updated the Board on the status of staff vacancies, including the two seasonal positions soon to be filled. He also explained new Foundation funded items coming to the library. Two device-charging lockers are on order. Klee asked what happens if someone forgets the code to get their device out of the locker. Woltjer said library Staff would have a master code.

Woltjer was excited to tell the Board the Library has been awarded the Will Eisner Graphic Novel grant. Staff applied a few years ago and were denied. This time, however, after re-applying, the BPL was awarded the grant. McSweyn shared excitement for the award, expressing that graphic novels are so much more than comic books.

Jamie Bratlie, Library and Facility Coordinator: Bratlie said the budget process continues. Further, Maintenance, with the help of Bratlie and Woltjer, is creating a working Preventive Maintenance and Replacement Plan for the library. The plan is progressing well.

b. Foundation, FOL, YGF

Library Foundation, Kenzie Lombardi:

- Lombardi said how fun the MLA reception was and that it was great seeing other library people coming into and enjoying the BPL.
- Food for Thought (FFT) is June 8 this year. There will be 24 table hosts, which will be the most for a FFT event so far. Chairperson Smith will be one of the hosts this year. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of May.
- The Story Trail is moving forward, just waiting for the ground to thaw. The expectation is the books will change seasonally.
- Lombardi said the Foundation has received a generous anonymous gift that will go a long way toward funding book locker number three. McSweyn inquired if the location for locker #3 in Lockwood has been determined yet. Woltjer said the site location is near St. Vs by the high school. There are a few nuances to finalize.

Friends of the Library, Clare Young: Young said Collectables Pop-up sale was very successful. The Friends may make it an annual sale. The spring sale is happening this week, with members only tonight and the public sale Friday and Saturday, 9 am – 4 pm.

Genealogy, PJ Smith: The Genealogy room had 14 patrons in March. Volunteers are in the room Monday through Thursday, 1:00 – 3:00, and most Fridays.

Smith said YGF has become affiliated with the Libraries for Family History Center. She is still figuring out what all that will mean.

Good of the Order (Discussion Only)

McSweyn confirmed Board shadowing is on the 20th at 2:00. Woltjer said yes.

Samuelson inquired about the timeline when putting in a request for ordering books. Woltjer explained the process. He also noted that shipping times are still “wonky” sometimes, and further that the BPL is still a little behind due to the Children’s re-ordering from the HVAC incident last May. Paulson then asked if the patron is notified if their request is not filled. Woltjer said he believes so.

PJ Smith said she has some books to donate to the library and asked who to contact or how to donate them. Woltjer asked her to bring them to him, and he would find the correct librarian to get them to for consideration.

Adjournment: 12:55 pm