



BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

May 11, 2023
12:00 p.m.

Board and City Staff present:

Staci Samuelson, Vice Chair	Susan Plath	Lawrence Klee
Roger Young	Peggy McSweyn	
Gavin Woltjer, Library Director	Kelsie Rubich, Assistant Library Director	Jamie Bratlie, Library & Facility Coordinator
Megan Thomas, Information Systems Coord.	Jaclynn Reaves, Patron Services Manager	

Absent:

Jennifer Smith, Chair	Cheryle Fisher	David Darby
Trudi Paulson		

Guests:

Clare Young, Friends of the Library

Public Comment

None

Chair's Comments

Vice Chair Samuelson shared some C.S. Lewis quotes to start the meeting.

Consent Agenda

a. Motion and second to approve the April 2023 minutes. All in favor.	Young/McSweyn
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BPL/Mgmt Updates

- a. Meet the Staff: Reaves introduced Linn Goss to the Board. Linn told the Board she came to the library from working at a bookstore. She is very happy to be at the library, and looks forward to her career here. Goss said she is part of the Circulation team.

- b. Gavin Woltjer, Director: Woltjer updated the Board regarding the north doors accident. City Engineering is in charge of the repairs in partnership with Bratlie. The damaged area has been confirmed structurally safe, so there will be no disruption in library service, other than no access through the north doors. Woltjer will keep the Board updated. McSweyn inquired if there is damage to the interior set of doors. Woltjer said no, it does not appear so. He will take the Board to view it after the meeting if they are interested.

Woltjer said the Rocky Mountain Kid Lit Festival was a success this year. Last year attendance was around 120; this year it was about 200. There were great presenters and good feedback.

Woltjer noted the Board normally does not hold meetings in July and December. He said he will not be here in June and proposed taking June and July off. Samuelson called for a motion.

McSweyn moved to not hold meetings in June and July and to hold a meeting in December. Discussion was positive to have a longer summer break. Woltjer noted that State standards require meeting six times a year. All in favor. Motion passed. McSweyn/Klee

Kelsie Rubich, Assistant Director:

- Copies of the newsletter are on the back counter if Board members would like one.
- Summer Reading kicks off on June 6 and runs through July. There is a great line up of programs for Summer Reading.
- The Book Bike is scheduled to be out weekly with regular programs such as Story Time, Yoga in the Park, and the Skate Park. The bike will also participate in some other outside lineups, such as the Tour De Fleur and Strawberry Festival.
- After being denied previously, two Staff members applied again for the Will Eisner grant. This time they were successful and the BPL has been awarded the grant. The Eisner grant focuses on graphic novels. The \$2000 covers materials added to the collection and staff travel to the ALA Conference in Chicago.

Megan Thomas, Information Systems Coordinator: Thomas told the Board the new Height's locker has had 730 checkouts so far. She also said the charging stations in the library have been used 109 times in their first one and half months. Thomas is currently preparing Read Squared for Summer Reading. McSweyn asked if many people are using the Height's locker for returns. Thomas told her yes and Staff is seeing an increase as more people become familiar with the new locker.

Jamie Bratlie, Library and Facility Coordinator: Bratlie said Woltjer updated the Board regarding the north doors accident. The other notable item is that she is starting the process of sealing and restriping the parking lot.

c. Foundation, FOL, YGF

Library Foundation, Peggy McSweyn: McSweyn spoke for the Foundation. She told the Board to get their Food for Thought tickets. She said there are many great topics. McSweyn also noted that Kenzie Lombardi is moving back to Helena, so Friday is her last day with the Foundation.

Friends of the Library, Clare Young: Young said they do not have the final number for this year's Spring Sale yet, but it looks like it will be the best one yet. They signed up 27 new members during the sale as well. It was a huge success.

Genealogy, PJ Smith via email: The Genealogy room had 17 patrons in April. Volunteers are in the room Monday through Thursday, 1:00 – 3:00, and most Fridays.

Good of the Order (Discussion Only)

Plath stated her appreciation for the opportunity to attend the MLA Conference in Billings. Her favorite was a class on technology. She said everything from hacking to A.I. was discussed. Some of the conference content may be available on Aspen later on.

McSweyn commended Staff for the good work on the north door accident.

Adjournment: 12:55 pm. Woltjer took interested Board members to view the north doors.