



## BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

May 9, 2024  
12:00 p.m.

### Board and City Staff present:

Susan Plath, Chair

Peggy McSweyn

Kathy Houska

Gavin Woltjer, Library Director

Jaclynn Reaves,

Patron Services Manager

Roger Young

Trudi Paulson

Jennifer Smith

Jamie Bratlie,  
Library & Facility Coordinator

Staci Samuelson

David Darby

Megan Thomas,  
Information Systems Coord.

### Absent:

Lawrence Klee, Vice Chair

### Guests:

Clare Young, FOL

Jeannie Tracy, Library Foundation

### Public Comment

None

### Chair's Comments

Plath thanked Klee for leading the April Board meeting in her absence. She also told the Board she has been looking at what libraries bring to communities and read a quote from Sidney Sheldon.

### Consent Agenda

- a. Motion and second to approve the April 2024 minutes with correction. All in favor.  
McSweyn/Samuelson

### Book Challenge

Woltjer sent an email to the Board regarding a book challenge of *Once Upon a Time in the North* (Philip Pullman). Woltjer stated he sent a letter to the person challenging the book with a list of libraries that have the book in their collection. He highlighted those libraries that also have the book catalogued in their children's section, as the BPL has. Woltjer requested a vote to remove the book from children's and re-catalogue it in young adult with another copy the BPL has in that section. Smith questioned why Woltjer highlighted specific libraries on the list he sent to the challenger. He replied it shows there is no set way libraries designate where the book is catalogued.

Motion and second to approve reclassification of the challenged book to YA per the recommendation of library staff.  
McSweyn/Darby

### YGF

Woltjer said he and PJ Smith have spoken about the Library terminating the MOU between the BPL and the Yellowstone Genealogy Forum, and that he also wants to discuss it with Board. He said the information circulating on social media is inaccurate. He offered to assist the YGF to help preserve their

resources by speaking with community partners, by giving assurance that the BPL will continue online resources, and by offering the continued use of the BPL meeting rooms. Woltjer noted in the last 300 operating days, the average number of visitors to the genealogy room is .4365 persons per day.

Visiting members of the public had a few questions including: does the BPL keep count of other resources? Woltjer replied yes. Was moving the Genealogy Room to another location in the library considered? Woltjer said no, most of the genealogy resources are available online which are accessible through the BPL, and the BPL offered to incorporate some the YGF collection. Woltjer stated he has not reached out to other community locations per his conversation with PJ Smith. PJ Smith stated she is still looking for a new location. Board member Jennifer Smith asked about the Western Heritage Center. PJ Smith told her they do not have room. Per questions, Woltjer explained the BPL does not charge the YGF any fees for the room. Board member Jennifer Smith inquired whether the meeting rooms will still be available to the YGF. Woltjer said yes, and the BPL will advertise the YGF's programs if requested as well.

PJ Smith read a thank you statement to the Board and Staff for the years of support to the YGF. Plath expressed thanks back for what the YGF has done for the community.

### BPL Updates

- a. Meet the Staff: Mikayla Beyl, Book Locker. Thomas introduced Beyl to the Board. Beyl told the Board about herself and what her job with the BPL looks like. She told them she volunteers on the bike library as well. Plath thanked her and told Beyl she loves her enthusiasm.

#### BPL Management Updates

Gavin Woltjer, Library Director: Woltjer told the Board the June meeting will be held in the Co+Lab as Circulation will be working in the Yellowstone Board Room while the sorter replacement is occurring. Paulson inquired when he would present the budget to the Board. Woltjer anticipates to present at the June meeting. He said Council usually adopts the budget in early June.

Kelsie Rubich, Assistant Director: Woltjer gave the Board Rubich's updates:

- Two summer seasonal staff will start on May 20 and 21. They will focus mainly on Children's programming and may assist in other areas of the library as well.
- Summer Reading begins June 4.
- The FixIt Bike Repair Station grand opening and Spring Commuter Challenge Kick-off are coordinated together on June 4, 5:30 pm. Please attend if you are able.
- Kid Lit Festival is happening this week, with most events on Saturday.
- Thank you to the FOL for a \$500 honorarium. A Lego table, train table, and supplies were purchased with the funds. The FOL is working on the plaque.
- Summer Fair will be June 22 & 23 at the MetraPark Expo Center. Rubich has submitted the application for the FOL.

Megan Thomas, Info. Systems Coordinator: Thomas said locker #4 is installed at the Children's Clinic. The ribbon cutting is expected to occur in June.

Jamie Bratlie, Library and Facility Coordinator: Bratlie said budget wrap up is ongoing, and prep for the new fiscal year has begun. She said the BPL has issued an RFP for Security Guard

Services. Review is currently underway. The Security contract is scheduled for Council approval on May 28 to go into effect on July 1.

Jaclynn Reaves, Patron Services Manager: Reaves said Circulation has been focusing on the sorter replacement planning to keep business going as usual.

- b. Friends of the Library: Clare Young said the Friends' spring sale was very successful. She also told the Board that the Friends' have purchased a train and Lego table for Children's as an honorarium in the name of a previous FOL member.

Foundation: Jeannie Tracy introduced herself to the Board and told them the Foundation has hired her as a consultant to keep things in order following Rose's departure. She gave them some background information about herself. Tracy told the Board that Food for Thought (FFT) has been rescheduled to October 15 to make certain it is properly planned and to make it great.

Woltjer noted that FFT in October will lead up to the Foundation space move. He said with the move, the MOU with the Foundation will be updated as well. Tracy stated the intention for the move into the new space is not to make the space an office. It will be designed as a gathering/meeting place to bring the donors into the library.

#### Good of the Order

McSweyn said she received a phone call about the YGF and was asked about the rumor that it was because Woltjer needed a bigger office. She encouraged the caller to contact Woltjer. McSweyn said her understanding is that the BPL offered to help the YGF by accepting materials that are not available online, but the YGF is not interested. Woltjer said he shared the email with the Board that he sent to Smith for full transparency. He made a number of offers to assist the YGF with their transition.

Adjournment: 1:20 pm. Next meeting: 6/13/2024.

Smith/McSweyn