



BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

March 13, 2025
12:00 p.m.

Board and City Staff present:

David Darby, Vice Chair
Peggy McSweyn
Gavin Woltjer, Library Director

Trudi Paulson
Kathy Houska
Kelsie Rubich,
Assistant Library Director
Jamie Bratlie, Library & Facility
Coordinator

Staci Samuelson

Megan Thomas,
Information Systems Coord.

Jaclynn Reaves, Patron Services
Manager

Absent:

Lawrence Klee, Chair
Jennifer Smith

Susan Plath

Roger Young

Guests:

Clare Young, FOL

Public Comment

None

Chair's Comments

Darby sat in as Chair and told the Board a story about artificial intelligence. He finished by saying A.I. is with us.

Consent Agenda

- a. Motion and second to approve the February 2025 minutes. All in favor. McSweyn/Paulson

Co+Lab equipment presentation

Thomas gave the Board a demo on the Toybox 3D printer. She said there is one available in the Co+Lab and two that are available for check out. The Toybox 3D printer is small, easy to use, and a good printer to learn with. The Board had a number of good questions that Thomas answered. The two printers currently have a waiting list of 20 – 30 people. The printer can be checked out for 2 weeks. The patron must sign a waiver of understanding that a late fee and/or cost of the printer can be charged to them for late/no return and/or damage.

FY26 Library Policies update

Woltjer explained the Policies update this year is mostly edits and “word-smithing” and he quickly covered what changes he is proposing. The Teen Tech Lab section was updated for the Co+Lab. Huska inquired if there is still an age demographic attached to the Co+Lab as was the Teen Tech Lab. Woltjer told her no, the space is now considered a multi-generational space.

Motion to accept all changes as shown and presented. All in favor.

McSweyn/Samuelson

BPL Updates

a. BPL Management Updates

Megan Thomas, Info. Systems Coordinator: Thomas said the virtual reality program is up and running. Staff is planning two introductory courses in April to introduce the equipment. Thomas also told the Board she is giving a book locker presentation at the MLA conference this year.

Jamie Bratlie, Library and Facility Coordinator: Bratlie told the Board her main focus currently is the budget process for FY2026 and FY2025 year-end.

Kelsie Rubich, Assistant Director:

- Rubich told the Board that eight staff members will provide six presentations at this year's MLA conference in Bozeman.
- Summer Reading planning is currently underway. The theme this year is "Color your World."
- The Seed Library post on social media went viral! The seed swap is coming soon to kick off the spring planting season.
- With funding from the Foundation, the Library has worked with A & E for branding the Co+Lab. Rubich handed out examples of the Co+Lab pamphlet and passport. The passport is for tracking personal certifications on the equipment offered in the Lab.

Jaclynn Reaves, Patron Services Manager: Reaves said the newest Staff member hired for the previously open LSSII position is a great addition to the team. Now that she is trained, Reaves is focusing on the volunteer breakfast preparations and new volunteer applications. Discussion ensued, including Darby's question whether volunteers ever fill in at the customer service desks, etc. Reaves and Woltjer told him no, volunteers never replace staff in their duties.

Gavin Woltjer, Library Director: Woltjer updated the Board regarding the Legislature happenings and how the library may be affected. He said he will update them more as he knows more.

- b. Friends of the Library: Clare Young said the Collectibles sale will be held this Saturday, March 15, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. She also said the big spring sale is slated for April 17 – 19.

Foundation: Tracy updated the Foundation's items:

- The Library Staff Appreciation breakfast was fun and she expects they will do it again in the future.
- The book swap was held at Meadowlark Brewing on Monday, February 17, which happened to be the coldest and snowiest evening of the season. There were 20 faithful attendees!
- The Foundation board retreat is scheduled on Tuesday, February 18. The retreat's focus will be on the future of the library. She noted there is currently close to \$5 million in the endowment.
- Food for Thought's 20th Anniversary event is scheduled on October 14, 2025.

Good of the Order

Woltjer sent out A.I. articles to the Board. He said if the articles were helpful, he will continue to send similar articles. He also asked if the Board has other topics of interest, let him know. He is happy to do research.

Darby noted that he appreciates coming to meetings that are so positive.

Adjournment: 1:00 pm. Next meeting: 4/10/2025.