

**Bozeman Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**  
**Library Board/Staff Conference Room**  
**Bozeman Public Library**  
**Wednesday, May 20, 2009**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE**

Trustees: Ron Farmer, Chair; Holly Brown; Jacki McGuire; Marilyn King; Judy Mathre; Paula Beswick, Foundation; John Gallagher, Friends of the Library; Lois Dissly, Staff; and Alice Meister, Director. Guests: Michael Yinger and Assistant City Attorney Tim Cooper.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chair Farmer.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Farmer asked Yinger for his comments, and he replied that he wanted to get some things clear in a quasi-professional way. Yinger gave some background about himself, saying that he has a degree in mechanical engineering. He was a marine in Vietnam and used the GI Bill to obtain his education, where he fell in love with software programming. After working at IBM, he left to start his own business. He has lived in various parts of Montana such as Big Fork, Harlowton, and now Bozeman. Even though this community is in economic trouble, his business is growing. Having some available time, he wanted to give back to his community and started volunteering at Bridger Alternative School at the suggestion of Superintendent Kirk Miller at a Rotary Club meeting. He saw that students were learning to program, thus increasing their self-confidence. At the suggestion of several local business people, he contacted the Library about offering computer classes in programming. He spoke with Terri Dodd but she said no to his proposal citing the need for administrative privileges in order to teach his classes. He said that he talked with Pam Henley about that problem being resolved at Bridger Alternative. Yinger felt the whole situation had evolved into an unprofessional one, as he felt there was a big gap and need for programming courses and the door was slammed in his face. He is disappointed and surprised at the Library's response and will be telling others of his experience. Yinger prepared to leave, and Chair Farmer told him that he would be viewed as vindictive if he didn't wait for the Library's response to his question of why he was not allowed to teach his proposed computing classes. He asked Tim Cooper to respond, and Cooper said that the Library is in a position of opening its facilities for the public welfare. The public services offered by the Library need to be available to all on the same basis, and staff cannot provide a private franchise and exclusive privilege to one person if it cannot be offered to all people. Currently Library staff teach the computer classes offered before the Library opens in the morning though another person might be brought in as an instructor if no one on staff is as familiar with the content (i.e. genealogy and Excel). No one has ever requested programming classes, and most of the classes offered are fairly general and well-known in nature. Yinger reiterated the need for his innovative programming classes, saying that they would allow people to make more money. He felt "slimed" by the Library but did apologize to Meister for the tone of some of his e-mail

messages. He also acknowledged that he understood the reason for being denied permission to teach his classes. Yinger left the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Cooper then reported on the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) project, saying that the land adjacent to the Library was being cleaned of asbestos though it was more expensive than anticipated. The Empire property is nearly clean, and the process is still on schedule. The City of Bozeman and CVS Pharmacy will conduct a study early this summer to evaluate the potential for vapor migration from groundwater impacted by a former dry cleaner near Hastings Shopping Center. Though evidence suggests that there is no problem, the vapor study will ensure that there are no potentially adverse health effects. The City will meet with MDEQ on June 1 with a public meeting scheduled for June 2 to provide further information and address concerns.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mathre moved to approve the April 15, 2009 Library Board minutes; Brown seconded; and the motion passed 4-0 (King had not yet arrived).

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Meister received public comments which included a request to make available a "library lookup" bookmarklet, which is being investigated. A patron requested game computers, and another felt that kids should be able to watch whatever they wanted on YouTube without being bothered by the librarians. A patron asked for a room for kids in their "middle ages" as teens are too quiet and little kids are too loud. Another felt that the Library needed better computers. An individual felt that a postal drop box would be great due to all of the traffic in the building (Meister has already checked into this with the Post Office to no avail). A patron requested specific DVDs filmed in or near Bozeman. An individual requested that construction workers not be allowed to park on the south entrance of the Library roadway since it impedes traffic; Meister has talked with the company but sometimes these vehicles have equipment on them that need to be extended to the work site. Several people noted that the automatic light switch in the upstairs men's restroom is turning off after 30 seconds; this problem has been fixed. One of the people commented that it is difficult to get a paper towel out without a whole bunch coming out with it. A person felt that a computer pass should not be needed to use the Library computers. Another asked that non-smoking be enforced outside the building on Library grounds. A patron recommended the Twilight series, which the Library owns. An individual recommended that the DVDs be shelved similar to the books with their spines visible, as they would fit on the shelves better and it would be easier to scan the titles. A person suggested a computer class on setting up laptops for use, how to configure the wireless connection, and other settings. Another suggested a computer class on Photoshop. A staff member noted that three visitors and four librarians told her how fortunate we are to have the Library building we have. A patron requested that one of the Express computers be put back into service, which has happened. Another noted that people should not be asked to leave if talking quietly on their cell phones (currently this is allowed in most parts of the building but there are no details about this situation). A patron requested the Library make a flatbed scanner available for use. Gallatin Valley Food Bank thanked the Library for its donation of 1012 pounds of food, which was gathered during the Food for Fines period in April. A patron complimented the Library on its new web site but felt that the "My Account" section is poorly done. This will

be investigated as the comment was just received. A recent visitor from SirsiDynix, the Library's ILS (Integrated Library System), complimented Meister on the building saying that it is a "beautiful showpiece with functional and forward-thinking design." A patron was disgruntled with the Library's catalog search program, which might have something to do with the way he searched. He also complained about the Library's "extremely limited weekend hours," which "makes it seem like the people who run the library don't want the public to use it. And with such a beautiful building and large selection of books and other materials, it's really a shame." A person e-mailed the Library web site to suggest adding quotations by famous authors and other well-known people, which is a non-profit project she runs. Another person had a problem logging into one of the Library databases and asked for help, which was provided. Artist Mary Keefer wrote to thank the Library's Art Committee for selecting her for a public art exhibit. A patron who helped secure Christopher Paolini for National Library Week wrote to say she was pleased to be invited to the luncheon where he spoke and also donated a poetry book. A library director wrote Meister to thank her for some inter-local agreement information provided her. An individual who gave several classes on Falun Dafa wrote to thank Meister and other staff for their help in setting up the classes at the Library; she also commented on the "beautiful beautiful library you have in such a beautiful city!!!" A patron had suggested a way of contacting Trustees through the web site, which was set up through a distribution list entitled [libraryboard@bozeman.net](mailto:libraryboard@bozeman.net). Madison Valley Public Library invited other libraries to the dedication of their remodeled and expanded building on June 6 in Ennis.

## **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT**

Gallagher reported that the Friends have two new Board members: Rene Tanner of the MSU Library staff and Jamie Johnston, who is working on her library degree. There will be a membership renewal letter coming out shortly as part of the annual membership drive. Used book sales are up 35% in the Lindley Perk Coffee Shop, and coffee sales have also increased. The owner might want to give up some retail space to the Friends in exchange for a break in the rent. The next Friends meeting is Tuesday, June 2 at 6:15 p.m.

## **FOUNDATION REPORT**

A list of upcoming events was distributed by Beswick. She reported that she had given a talk to 75 people at the Noon Rotary Club yesterday, which Farmer said was excellent. She was asked to speak about how non-profits were coping during these tough economic times but at the last minute the topic was changed to where libraries are headed in the future. She is working with the Hemingways on putting birdfeeders in the green space outside the Ernest Hemingway Alcove. Pigeons are currently roosting on that east side of the building, which is causing excrement buildup. She is also working on maintenance of the feeder. A bird book, binoculars, and a bird DVD will be available at the Alcove. At the last two "Exploring the Arts" programs, there were 77 people at one and 50 at the other one. Three music programs are lined up for this fall. Kelly Roberti and Friends will begin the summer jazz series on June 1. Three prints of the current "Downtown Portrait Project" have been sold. On June 2 there will be a media kickoff for the Check Out a Museum program.

The Gallatin Valley Forum programs are set to go with one due to air in June and others to be broadcast this summer. The S.A.T. class is scheduled for this evening and has been very successful. The job announcement for the half-time programming position will be in the paper. Beswick did a program with Sarah Glover on One Book-One Bozeman for the rural community conference. The September activities for this year's book *The Soloist* include a convocation address by the author Steve Lopez on September 9 at MSU and a public reception and book signing the next day. There were 200 to 300 women who attended the Women's Health Fair on May 12; the Men's Health Fair is scheduled for June 16. The Bridger Health Clinic and other groups are coordinating the health fairs. Beswick will attend her last Leadership Bozeman event tomorrow. She submitted a Humanities Montana grant for the Children's Festival of the Book, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 19. The Summer Family Music series featuring The Muses is scheduled for June 23 at 7 p.m. On June 30 she and Meister will have a Library table at the Bogert Farmer's Market. The next Foundation Board meeting is Thursday, May 28 at 1:30 a.m.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Meister noted that the April statistical report showed a 5.16% in circulation along with a 70.77% increase in adult programs and a 62% increase in attendance. There is a 7.57% increase in door traffic. Website visits have increased 27.54%, and holds placed on materials are up over 18%. At 87.5% of the fiscal year completed, the Library has 24.57% left in its budget. Counting recently submitted invoices, the Library still has 24% left in its budget. The MontanaLibrary2Go downloadable audio book program, using a company called OverDrive, is now available on the Library web site as of May 4. There is a downloadable station at the Library for people to use, or they can use their home computers any time to do so. The Friends of the Library are underwriting the expense of the program available through the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC). There will be a meeting in Helena on June 26 on this topic. The semiannual meeting of the MSC was held in Bozeman May 7-8. Librarians arrived on Thursday for meetings and workshops, and Friday was the all-day meeting. Nine new libraries were welcomed into the MSC (including Parmly Billings Library, the largest library in the state), making a total of 99 libraries. Guests included several SirsiDynix executives, an OCLC representative, and an Oregon consortium spokesperson. There was local television coverage of the meeting. The Library Museum Pass, which is paid for by the Friends, is ready to launch. Library cardholders can check out a week-long pass at one of the four local museums for up to four attendees. The Library will be hosting an adult summer reading program. This evening there will be a discussion of *The Grapes of Wrath* as part of the "The Big Read Under the Big Sky", which is mainly sponsored by the Bozeman Historic Preservation Advisory Board and the Montana Historical Society. The Partnership for Prescription Assistance "Help is Here Express" big orange bus will be in the Library parking lot on May 28. Dood, Dissly, and Meister attended a day-long City retreat on May 15. The Reference Department met May 7 and had a demonstration of the database *Price it! Antiques & Collectibles*; the Children's Department met

May 8 to discuss the summer reading program, and Circulation Services met on May 15. Staff is currently receiving CPR training under the auspices of the City Fire Department. The Headwaters Library Association celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 15 at the Library. There will be a program on Antarctica on May 28 presented by Tom Skeele and Phil Knight, who visited there in 2008 with Lindblad Expeditions. The Library's Circulation Services Department will change the way it currently manages reserve or "hold" books in order to protect patron confidentiality. The new method will utilize the first four letters of the patron's last name, the last four numbers of that person's bar code, and the hold date. Meister will be on vacation May 22-29, returning to work on June 1. Incident reports included a patron who asked a staff member for a date. When she said no, he continued to pester her. A patron fell while descending the stairs, catching her heel on the edge of the step. Another patron, who was an EMT, stabilized her and called the paramedics. She was treated and released. A man who was rude to an individual on his cell phone was allowed to remain in the Library, which upset the other man who felt the Library policies were discriminatory against young people.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:  
STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Strategic Plan will be discussed at the next meeting due to lack of time.

**BOARD MEMBER'S AND  
CITY REPRESENTATIVE'S  
REPORTS**

This meeting was Marilyn King's last one since she will be out of town in June. Chair Farmer and others at the meeting thanked her for her time, her attention to detail, her common sense, her connection to the schools, and her love of the Library. The City Commission will be selecting a new Trustee after the position is advertised.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m. The next regular Library Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2009 in the Library Board Room.





