

Bozeman Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Bozeman Public Library
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
Minutes

This meeting was held via WebEx.

Attendance Board Chair John Gallagher; Trustees Stewart Mohr, Ken Spencer, Kelly Dowdell and Jennifer Pawlak; Bozeman Public Library (BPL) Director Susan Gregory; Assistant Director Kit Stephenson, Administrative Assistant Lauranna Cossins, City Commissioner Terry Cunningham

Not Present: Foundation Director Janay Johnson & Friends President Dana Pepper.

Call to Order Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Gallagher at 4:08pm.

Approval of the Minutes

Action Trustee Pawlak moved to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2020 meeting. Trustee Mohr seconded. There was no discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Action/ Discussion

Reports

Correspondence Director Gregory shared the following patron comments: One person wrote “Open up the Library!” A patron wrote “I’m so very grateful for all of you and how careful you’ve been through COVID.” Another patron requested a non-tech option for returning books after hours, especially if the automated system is down. Another patron wrote “you are all so awesome, love the new return machine.”

Director and Staff Reports

- **Director Gregory** discussed her report. The Library is continuing to offer curbside, online and phone service only at this time due to several unknowns in the coming weeks and the forecasts from public health officials of possible surges in COVID-19 cases for January and February. The effect of travel over the holidays, return of MSU students to the community, and possible withdrawal of the statewide mask mandate by a new state administration are all considerations that could affect community case numbers. Library management is following the weekly case numbers and positive test rates found on our Gallatin City-County Health Department website. The World Health Organization recommends a test positivity rate of below 5% over a 7-day rolling average as a criteria

for reopening businesses. We are going to look for 14-day increments of the <5% positive test rate in the hope of seeing a downward positive case pattern.

We are very proud of our Children's Department Head, Cindy Christin, for being named the Montana State Library 2020 Librarian of the Year. Director Gregory said that Cindy's extraordinary talent for working with children and families, coupled with her powerful commitment to early childhood literacy, have literally changed and enriched children's lives all over the state of Montana for many years. There has been a lot of media coverage this week, including television interviews and an interview with the Bozeman Daily Chronicle. We are very fortunate to have Cindy on our extraordinary Library team.

The planning team for the Library expansion project, which consists of myself, the Library Foundation, Jon Henderson and the MSR Architects group, started a weekly meeting to plan the logistics and needs. The first few weeks in February during the week of the 8th we have several opportunities for online workshops for the staff, community and stakeholders. There is also an online survey that will be available on the Library website, on February 1st. These workshops and survey is just the first of two planned community engagement opportunities to get public input.

Department Heads submitted highlights from their departments: Circulation has two open positions. Adult Services have done a lot of planning and providing virtual programming this last month. One Book One Bozeman is coming up in Feb. The book for OBOB is "The Night Watchmen". We had a very successful Friday forum with Jon Tester, where we had over 400 people sign up to attend. Tech Services has 22 hot spots, which can circulate for 14 days, there are 8 chrome books with hot spots and 4 HP pro books with hot spots which were funded by the Library Foundation and the MT State Library. These have been very popular items, especially the hotspots.

City of Bozeman Reports

Terry Cunningham, City Commission Library Liaison- Commissioner Cunningham provided an update from the Gallatin County Health Board meeting from today, the Health Board elected to keep the current regulations in effect until April 20, 2021 that includes the mask mandate, social distancing etc. The Board will revisit on Feb 4th to discuss the regulation regarding the bars and restaurant closures at 10pm. The commission is spending a lot of time working with our elected representatives and the legislature. There are legislative priorities that the city is trying to advance.

Adjournment There being no further business, Board Chair Gallagher adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m