

Bozeman Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Bozeman Public Library
Wednesday, April 21, 2021 in Library Large Community Room
Minutes

Attendance Board Chair John Gallagher; Trustees Stewart Mohr, Kelly Dowdell(via phone), Jennifer Pawlak & Ken Spencer; Bozeman Public Library (BPL) Director Susan Gregory; Department Heads Lois Dissly, Carmen Clark, & Brittany Dolezal, Administrative Assistant Lauranna Cossins, BPL Foundation Director Janay Johnson, Friends of the Bozeman Public Library President Sam Gilmer, Strategic Services Director Jon Henderson, City Manager Jeff Mihelich & City Commissioner Terry Cunningham
Not Present: Cindy Christin, Children's Department Head (excused)

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

Approval of the Minutes

Action Trustee Mohr moved to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2021 meeting. Trustee Spencer seconded. No further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Action/ Discussion

Library Expansion update – Johnson, Gregory

BPL Foundation Director Johnson began the discussion by saying that the process of choosing a concept design has been ongoing for the last three months. The process has included two rounds of public engagement that involved the general public, Library stake holders, and Library staff. The public engagement piece included a public online survey and a number of public online meetings with the architects. More than 1300 people completed the survey and gave creative input. The Library Expansion committee, made up of Foundation staff, Library staff, Trustees, Friends, and donors started with an ideal wish list of all the things they would like to see added or changed and gave these ideas to the architects to work into concepts with estimated costs. The costs for three different concepts that included the wish list items came back with price tags that ranged from 5.5 to 8 million dollars. The Foundation Board discussed their goals for the next 10 years in their monthly Board meeting to determine what amount of money they could provide for this project and decided to keep the building expansion within the 4.5 to 5 million dollar range. The architects then provided three new concepts that encompass many priorities, all within the projected budget. Johnson provided a visual of the three different concepts with

the focus on one that best meets our needs and wants. The major components to the favored plan are that we would enlarge the Community Room on the first floor to provide more public seating, enlarge the second floor Montana Room for more quiet reading space, create several smaller meeting rooms on the second floor and have room for creative space on the first floor. The next step will be letting the architects know which concept we picked. They will further refine the concept and provide us some renderings in the next one to two months.

City of Bozeman Board Consolidation -Mihelich

City Manager Mihelich was asked by Director Gregory to discuss the City's Board Consolidation process and plan. He reported that the City Commission established their priorities for the year this past January and one of those priorities is to consolidate the City's citizen advisory committees. The concept is to take the existing 40 advisory committees and advisory boards and consolidate them into 6 "Super Boards" to provide synergy in relationships, member diversity and more efficiency. The six pillars for these boards are Safe Community, Transportation, Community Development, Sustainability, Cultural Services and Parks & Open Spaces. Library Board Chair John Gallagher commented that the Library Board is a statutory governing board with budgetary and supervisory responsibilities, not an advisory committee, so the Library Board should be excluded. The City Manager said that it was his understanding that the Library Board would be included in the plan. Trustee Pawlak asked if Library Board members would remain the same and finish their terms. CM Mihelich said that one aspect of the plan is to allow current board and committee members to re-apply for their positions. The City Commission will have a work session regarding the Board Consolation plan with a recommendation provided by City Manager Mihelich at their May 25th, 2021 City Commission meeting.

Action: No Action

Public Comment: Board Chair Gallagher recognized Technical Services Department Head Lois Dissly for her many years of Library service and upcoming retirement. City Manager Mihelich made a brief speech in which he noted that the longest-serving City employee is Lois Dissly, who has worked for the City of Bozeman for 35 years! "Thank you for your tenacity, tenure, and your love for this space and services," Mihelich said. He presented Lois with a framed print of the Bridger Mountains by local photographer Craig Hergert in thanks. The Board and staff noted that Dissly will be very much missed.

Reports

Correspondence Director Gregory shared the following patron comments:

- “Keep Your Smiles and great kindness! It makes big differences in people’s days! Thank you all.”
- “I miss your free paperback exchange.”
- “Please have some outdoor concerts for us to celebrate life! It’s about time!!!”
- “Free magazines in the lobby again, please!”
- Patron requested that the Library keep print magazines to browse and listed 20 magazines she’s interested in.

Director and Staff Reports

Director Gregory highlighted her Director’s report which was provided to the Board earlier. Director Gregory stated that the Library’s reopening is going well and the majority of people are wearing masks. Lois Dissly is retiring this month. Discussion on Guns in the Library: With the passage and signing of HB 102 in mid-February, someone with a concealed weapon and a permit for it can carry the weapon anywhere except for state and local government offices. Open carry is now permitted. Gregory will continue to work with the City Attorney’s office on getting clarity on this very important policy shift.

Department Heads highlights

Public Service Head Brittany Dolezal shared that she’s been participating in a Public Participation training with other City staff. She has been on several interview panels for the Circulation department vacancies this week and hopes to have a full staff in the Circulation department in the coming month.

Adult Services & Outreach Head Carmen Clark stated that April has been a busy month. She hosted two Norwegian interns virtually and supervised their project in the last two months. They helped us with programming and created some educational videos about the Library’s services. The Earth Day Festival was a success last weekend. Gardening classes and our very popular Seed Library have resumed. Her department will host the upcoming candidate forum for the Bozeman School Board Trustees’ election.

Tech Services Dept. Head Lois Dissly stated that she and other Library staff participated in the virtual Montana Library Association Annual Conference in April. She and her staff have been working on a diversity audit on the Library’s collection and feel confident that our efforts to provide diverse and inclusive materials to our patrons is successful and will be ongoing. The

Tech Services department has been working on a pilot project of backpack kits funded by the Library Foundation.

City of Bozeman Reports

Terry Cunningham, City Commission Library Liaison- Commissioner Cunningham provided an update on City business. He noted that it's budget season again and a FY22 City Budget will be voted on at the end of June. The City Commission has allocated some funding for impact fee reimbursement for the Tiny Home village project.

Foundation Director Janay Johnson provided copies of the Foundation's Annual Gratitude Report.

Friends President Sam Gilmer provided an update on the Friends' activities. They have been selling books online and in the Library lobby throughout the pandemic. Donations are open on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4 pm until "full." Amy Benjamin has done an amazing job for the Friends this year. The group hopes to have a book sale at the end of June. The Friends continue to financially support the Most Wanted books and DVDs. They are delighted to keep helping the Library with continued financial support.

Adjournment There being no further business, Board Chair Gallagher adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.