

Bozeman Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Bozeman Public Library
Wednesday, May 19, 2021 in Library Large Community Room
Minutes

Attendance Board Chair John Gallagher; Trustees Stewart Mohr, Kelly Dowdell, Jennifer Pawlak & Ken Spencer; Bozeman Public Library (BPL) Director Susan Gregory; Assistant Director Kit Stephenson, Department Head Brittany Dolezal, Administrative Assistant Lauranna Cossins, BPL Foundation Director Janay Johnson, & City Commissioner Terry Cunningham
Not Present: Friends of the Bozeman Public Library President Sam Gilmer

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

Approval of the Minutes

Action Trustee Pawlak moved to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2021 meeting, with one change to end of meeting time to reflect 5:40pm. Trustee Dowdell seconded. No further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Action/ Discussion – no action at this time

Public Comment – no comment

Reports

Correspondence Director Gregory shared the following patron comments:

- A patron wrote that the Library is buying too many liberal books and that more books should be bought with the conservatives in our community in mind; there are lots of conservative books being published to purchase.
- A patron asked for coloring pages to color with markers and crayons.
- A patron requested that the Library bring back hard print versions of the magazines Cooks Illustrated, O Magazine, Sunset, & American Crafts

Director and Staff Reports

Director Gregory highlighted her report which was provided to the Board earlier.

Director Gregory provided an update on the Library reopening. She stated that management staff are continuing to plan on getting back to pre-Covid pandemic hours as quickly as possible. There are several staff positions to fill before we will have full coverage. The Library will once again

have public seating available starting Monday, May 24th. Gregory said that planning for the Library Expansion Project is going well and that Library Foundation Director Johnson would talk about progress in her Board report. Bozeman Police Detective Captain Cory Klumb updated Library staff on the new weapons laws during a morning briefing. At this time, open carry of guns will be prohibited in City of Bozeman buildings. Concealed weapons that are permitted are permissible; concealed weapons that are not permitted are not. Gregory shared that the seventh Symbozium program, which was held virtually on May 13th, went very well. The topic was “How are you Holding Up?” and dealt with the stress that people are feeling as they transition back to post-pandemic life. The three panelists were mental health and public health professionals from Bozeman and Seattle. It was recorded and is currently on the Library YouTube channel.

Department Heads Highlights

Public Services Head Brittany Dolezal explained that she is working on a transition from being the Public Services Department Head to her new position as Adult Services Department Head. In the interest of professional growth, Dolezal and Carmen Clark have moved to different Library departments as managers. Clark is now the Head of Technical Services, a position which was vacated with the retirement of Lois Dissly.

Assistant Director Kit Stephenson said that she and the department heads have been conducting a lot of interviews for Library staff vacancies. Two short-term shelvers have been hired in the Circulation Department, which is very helpful.

City of Bozeman Reports

Terry Cunningham, City Commission Library Liaison- Commissioner Cunningham provided an update on City business. The City Manager’s FY22 Recommended Budget was presented at the City Commission meeting last night and Commissioners will be working on the FY22 General Fund Budget in the next few weeks. The Library is in the General Fund. The City Commission will have a work session regarding the Board Consolidation Plan on May 25th. As the discussion is a work session, no final decisions will be made.

Library Foundation Director Janay Johnson –The Foundation has a staff vacancy. Their Communication & Marketing manager is moving to Oregon. Johnson said that they have several strong candidates for the job and they will interview them in the next few weeks. Johnson said that the next step in the Library expansion project is for the architects to send concepts to one of their Bozeman partners, Martel Construction, for cost estimates. She plans to have more information for the Library Board at the June meeting.

Friends President Sam Gilmer – not present. No report provided.

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