

Bozeman Public Library
Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 4 pm
Library Board Room
Minutes

Attendance Trustees Stewart Mohr, Kelley Dowdell, Pam Henley, Jennifer Pawlak, Ken Spencer; Bozeman Public Library (BPL) Director Susan Gregory; Assistant Library Director Kit Stephenson; Administrative Assistant Lauranna Cossins; Department Heads Carmen Clark, Ellie Newell, Sarah Creech; Foundation Director Janay Johnson; City of Bozeman Strategic Services Director Jon Henderson & Guest Mike Redburn

Not Present: Friends of the Bozeman Public Library President Dana Pepper; & City Commissioner Terry Cunningham

Call to Order Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Stewart Mohr at 4:02 pm.

Public Comment – no comment

Approval of the Minutes

Action Trustee Dowdell moved to approve the minutes from the May 10th, 2023, meeting with the correction to change the date of the next Library Board meeting to read June 21st, 2023, Trustee Spencer seconded. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Action/ Discussion

1. Bozeman Community Center—Endorsement of Final Costs- City of Bozeman Strategic Services Director Jon Henderson

Strategic Services Director Jon Henderson presented a power point presentation on the cost of the Bozeman Community Center for the Library Board’s approval and endorsement.

Action Trustee Henley stated, “As part of the overall Bozeman Community Center, I move to endorse the final construction and operating costs for the Library portion and recommend to the City Commission that they place the bond and mill levy on the November 7, 2023 ballot.” Trustee Pawlak seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Bozeman Public Library Strategic Plan 2023-2025- Ned Cooney, Consultant, Echo Ventures

Trustee Mohr stated that over the last three months a committee made up of representatives from the Library Board, the Friends of the Library, the Library Foundation, the Library Director, Assistant Director and Department Heads has been involved with developing a new Bozeman Public Library Strategic Plan. The Trustees have been asked to review and approve the first phase of the two-year plan. In this phase, the committee established four goals and strategies for each goal. A survey was sent to all Library staff in May and the feedback from the completed surveys was used to help build the goals. The four goals are:

- 1) Provide Access and Connection. *We will provide high quality and accessible Library service for all.*
- 2) Cultivate an Inviting and Inclusive Library. *We will embed equity, diversity and inclusion in everything we do.*
- 3) Create Space and Place. *We will design and plan for adequate resources to meet the community's growing needs.*
- 4) Support a Dynamic Staff. *Our innovative, gutsy and engaged staff serve patrons with excellence in our growing community.*

Consultant Ned Cooney discussed the process that was used in Phase One in which he conducted six zoom meetings to facilitate the creation of the goals with the committee. Phase Two will not involve Mr. Cooney but will be the work plan phase conducted by Library management with Library staff. To accomplish this, the Library's annual Staff Day will be a work session that will involve Library staff addressing the goals in small groups and sharing feedback at the end of the day.

Trustee Spencer suggested the addition of the word "gutsy" in Goal number four.

Action: Trustee Dowdell moved to approve the draft Strategic Plan work as a work in progress. Trustee Henley seconded. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Late Opening, Sweet Pea Parade Saturday August 5, 2023- Gregory

Gregory deferred to Department Head Sloan. Sloan shared a request from staff for the Library to open at noon, rather than 10 am, on Saturday, Aug 5th, 2023 so that Saturday staff could represent the Library in the annual Sweet Pea Parade.

Action: Trustee Pawlak moved to approve opening the Library at noon on Saturday Aug 5th, 2023. Trustee Spencer seconded. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Correspondence Director Gregory shared patron comments. In the interest of time, a list of comments was passed around to the Trustees to review. Several visitors to the Library commented on how "lovely" and "amazing" the Library is.

There were numerous patron requests to bring back the magazine exchange shelves. Patrons have been very vocal in their disappointment that the old shelves were taken down for construction. Director Gregory said that the Library will bring the magazine trade project back when the renovation is done. There will be a new location and cabinet in an attempt to keep the magazines organized. Prior to the renovation, the shelves were often mistakenly used as a recycling drop-off and the actual magazines were disorganized.

Director and Staff Reports

Director's Report – Gregory reported that patrons say that they are happy with the new meeting rooms and study spaces. The Library has been extremely busy every day. She attended the City Directors' Team retreat in Anaconda on June 8th -9th with the City Directors and City Manager. Gregory shared

that she, Library Board Chair Stew Mohr, and Assistant Director Kit Stephenson met with a concerned patron and four of his colleagues regarding the Library collection in mid-June. A productive discussion of how the Library chooses materials took place and the meeting ended on a positive note. Director Gregory talked with the group about the Library's ongoing goal to have a "fair and balanced" collection and explained the mission of public libraries, which is to serve their entire communities as evenly as possible. She shared that the Library welcomes patrons' suggestions for materials. Gregory, Mohr and Stephenson thanked the group for being Library supporters.

Department Heads' Highlights – Department reports were provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

Reports

City Commission Library Liaison- Terry Cunningham –Not present; no report provided.

Library Foundation - Foundation Director Janay Johnson – Johnson mentioned that we have a possibility of another gift for the Bozeman Community Center project. She continues to work on fundraising for the project.

Friends of the Bozeman Public Library- President Dana Pepper- Not present; no report provided.

Adjournment There being no further business, Chair Stewart Mohr adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Next Board meeting: Sept 20th, 2023, 4 pm, Bozeman Public Library Board Room