

**Bozeman Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, October 18, 2023  
Cottonwood Room  
Minutes**

**Attendance** Trustees Stewart Mohr, Pam Henley, Jennifer Pawlak, Ken Spencer, & Mike Redburn; Bozeman Public Library (BPL) Director Susan Gregory; Assistant Library Director Kit Stephenson; Department Head Ellie Newell, City Commissioner Terry Cunningham & Foundation Director Janay Johnson; City Attorney Greg Sullivan; Assistant City Attorney, Kaity Cuellar

Not Present: Administrative Assistant Lauranna Cossins & Friends of the Bozeman Public Library President Dana Pepper

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

**Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

**Action** Trustee Spencer moved to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2023, meeting. Trustee Mohr seconded. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

### **Action/ Discussion**

1. Library Boundary Line Adjustments request – Chris Naumann, Sanderson Stewart

Mr. Naumann stated that he would start with a point of clarification: his client, who recently purchased the building to the east of the Library, originally had discussions with City administration about a boundary line adjustment involving a purchase of a strip of land between the Library and the property located at 702 East Main but changed tactics before the Library Board meeting. The Library Board and Director were unaware of the change of plan before today's meeting. The new request is for a 4- foot access easement for land that tapers to the south side of the property. Naumann explained that the property has been using this sliver of land, under the driveway, for years when it was the site of an antique/junk store. There is no need to purchase new Library property and the landscaping will remain unchanged if the new owner can simply get an easement to continue to use the drive. Mr. Naumann presented a few slides of the plans for the property that showed a retail business on the main floor and basement apartments. City Attorney Greg Sullivan stated that the Library Board has authority for this decision. Sullivan said that the Board needs to consider the long-term effects of alienating this area. One option might be a perpetual

easement. He encouraged the Library Trustees to think beyond ten years and consider the future needs of the Library. The City Attorney's office can work with the Community Development Department, the Library and the client's team regarding this access easement and legal review. Chris Naumann stated that they would like to submit a site plan. Greg Sullivan thinks his office could get this reviewed within two months, "working collaboratively with the Library Board".

No motion was needed. The Board agreed to move forward with work on an easement. Greg Sullivan, Director Gregory, and the City of Bozeman Community Development Department will work with Sanderson Stewart and the client's architect for necessary documentation.

## **Correspondence**

Director Gregory shared the following patron requests /comments:

- A patron loves the new renovations and can't wait for the cooking programs.
- "Please bring back the free magazines!"
- Please have a library of things; "Would love if y'all could have a tool, camera, etc. library that we could check out things when needed."
- "Please revise the flow restrictions in the bathroom sinks. I appreciate water conservation, but the restrictions cause water to spray so hard it gets on my clothes every time."
- "I wanted to say how much I enjoyed spending time in the library here. I'm from Dallas, TX on vacation and ended up spending time working here and then came back to visit before flying out."
- A comment was received today from a patron who doesn't like the renovation and said that the new area looks sterile like a hospital. "Bring back the furniture to the lobby and make the area cozy again."

## **Director and Staff Reports**

Director's Report – Gregory provided her report to the Library Board prior to the meeting.

Gregory shared that the Montana State Library Commission held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. The Commission voted to remove the long-held State public library standard that says cities with populations over 25,000 must hire library directors who have a graduate degree in library science. Applicant education requirements will now be decided locally by individual Montana cities and towns. Public comment regarding the vote will open Nov.3<sup>rd</sup>. A hearing will be held on Nov 28. Pam Henley will send out links for public comment to the Board.

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

## Reports

City Commission Library Liaison Terry Cunningham – The Commission is continuing to work on priorities that were set at the beginning of the year. He said that he was very impressed by the Library renovation and would like to get other City Commissioners here for tours.

Library Foundation - Foundation Director Janay Johnson – Johnson, Director Gregory, Commissioner Terry Cunningham, Strategic Services Director Jon Henderson and Parks & Recreation Director Mitch Overton met with the representative for the Blank Family Foundation about the Bozeman Community Center project. Johnson is hopeful that they will make a donation to the project. The Foundation Gala was a successful night.

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 p.m.

**Next Board meeting:** November 15th, 4 pm, 2023 - Bozeman Public Library, Community Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.