

Bozeman Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting

May 21, 2025

Minutes

Attendance: Library Board Trustees Pam Henley, Ken Spencer & Mike Redburn; Bozeman Public Library (BPL) Director Susan Gregory; Administrative Assistant Lauranna Cossins; Department Heads Carmen Clark, Ellie Newell, Ben Nielsen, & Sarah Widger; Library Friends & Foundation Director Janay Johnson; City Commissioner Jennifer Madgic.

**Not Present:** Trustee Chair Stewart Mohr & Trustee Mike Long

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ken Spencer at 4pm.

Changes to the Agenda- Trustee Henley requested to add discussion about remote trustee attendance.

**Public Comment** – Mark Johnson from Resource Technologies shared that they are looking for a new location for the world globe sculpture currently displayed in the Baltimore building on Main Street. The large sculpture is made entirely of pennies and is by artist Jim Dolan. Mr. Johnson passed around a picture of the sculpture to those present and asked if the Library might be a good location for it. The globe weighs about 300 pounds and is 8' in diameter, which would make safe placement in the Library a concern. Library staff thanked Johnson for his generous offer and said that they would discuss the item and reply to him.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Action: Trustee Redburn moved to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2025, Library Board meeting as submitted. Trustee Henley seconded. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.

**Action**

**Work Bench Policy**

Department Head Ben Nielsen requested that the Board review and approve the requested change to the current Work Bench policy that would lower the age for obtaining a work bench card from 14 to 12 years old. The reason for the age change is it would make the Work Bench lab more accessible. Enough time has passed to see how the lab runs and works for our patrons. We see a lot of younger teens come in with their parents because they want to use the lab and, without the card, need to have a parent or guardian present. This change would make it easier for more teens to use the lab on their own.

**Action:** -Trustee Henley moved to approve the Work Bench policy changes as presented. Trustee Redburn seconded. No further discussion All voted in favor. The Work Bench Policy change was approved.

## **Discussion**

**Social Services in the Library-** Chair Mohr requested that Director Gregory share the conversation that was had between two City Commissioners, Director Gregory and Chair Mohr a few weeks ago in which our previous Open-Door project was discussed. Commissioners Fischer and Bode had come to the Library for a tour and to learn more about the Library's operation. The question of adding social services support in the Library was asked by the Commissioners, at which point Chair Mohr told them about the idea behind the Open Door. This was a donor-funded project that the Library started before the pandemic in which a small public office space was created next to the Community Room for use by social service agency staff and Library patrons. The project never really got off the ground and the pandemic stopped it for obvious reasons. Library staff commented that the project wasn't very successful because patrons weren't interested in working with the agency volunteers who staffed the Open Door.

Trustees discussed the need to re-start a social service support program and resolved that it is not a Library responsibility, Library staff should not be involved in managing it, but that all social service and nonprofit personnel are more than welcome to book space at the Library for outreach.

**Remote Trustee attendance discussion-** Trustee Henley asked to get the opinion of the other Board members regarding remote attendance at Library Board meetings by Trustees. Due to a heavy travel schedule and part-time residence out of state, she said she won't be here in town for meetings at times. Henley stated she has reviewed the City Commission Resolution 5323 regarding City advisory boards and said that it may or may not apply to the Library Board of Trustees, as we are a governing board – not advisory board - that follows the Montana Code Annotated 2023 Title 22, Libraries, Arts and Antiquities. Henley pointed to the Library Board Governance policy that has no updated rules on remote attendance for trustees. The Board members noted the need to review and update the current Bozeman Public Library Governance policy to include expectations regarding remote Board meeting attendance. Henley said that next steps will be to verify what policy Trustees are under so that Trustees really do understand what the what the parameters are. Board members Spencer and Redburn noted that remote meeting attendance is extremely common and is an accepted business practice.

## **Reports**

Director report- Director Gregory provided her report to the Library Board prior to the meeting. Highlights were reviewed. Gregory asked the Trustees to let her know if they had any questions.

## Correspondence highlights

One person wrote, "There is nothing you can do better!"

There were several requests for new materials.

A patron shared their concern regarding the private security officers not being friendly.

"Please make the water at the bathroom faucet stay on long enough to get my hands wet! That would be nice."

Update: The new Library outreach vehicle has arrived. Our outreach librarians now have a new Toyota Hybrid Rav4 for visits to nursing homes, senior living centers and smaller events.

Youth Services Head Newell announced that department librarian Amy Cory just completed her master's degree in library science. Youth Services is gearing up for the annual Summer Learning series. Free noon lunches Monday -Friday, for youth ages 18 and under, are returning to the Library, fully funded by the community through the Library Friends & Foundation. Ellie stated that she and Adult Programming & Outreach Dept. Head Ben Nielsen just got back from an international children's museum conference in Albuquerque. It was incredibly inspiring just being surrounded by 1200 people who understand that children learn through play and beautiful play spaces. Newell returned with a lot of ideas for the upcoming Children's area renovation project.

**Commission Liaison Update** – Madgic confirmed that Chuck Winn accepted the job of Bozeman City Manager.

**Friends & Foundation Report** – Janay reported on the result of the annual community Give Big fundraising event. The Library Friends & Foundation came out 10th overall in a group of 211 nonprofits and raised \$68,000.00 in a 24-hour period. She thanked everyone present for participating and donating. Johnson said that the Foundation is seriously considering purchasing a piece of land on the west side of town for an eventual branch library. They hope to submit a letter of intent to the sellers soon. The parcel is in a new development called Urban Farms that is located at Cottonwood and Huffine. A location map was shared.

**There being no further business, Trustee Spencer adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm.**