

Bozeman Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Feb 19, 2025
Minutes

Attendance Library Board Chair Stewart Mohr; Trustees Mike Long, Ken Spencer, Mike Redburn; Bozeman Public Library (BPL) Director Susan Gregory; Assistant Director Kit Stephenson; Administrative Assistant Lauranna Cossins; Department Heads Carmen Clark, Ben Nielsen, Ellie Newell, Sarah Widger; Library Friends & Foundation Director Janay Johnson; Guest- President of the Friends & Foundation Tom Stonecipher

Not Present: Trustee Pam Henley & City Commissioner Jennifer Madgic

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

Public Comment – No Public present, therefore no comment.

Changes to the Agenda- Chair Mohr stated that we were going to move the Board Ethics training to the end of the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

Action Trustee Spencer moved to approve the minutes from the **Jan 15, 2025**, meeting. Trustee Long seconded. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.

Action/ Discussion

1. Library Vehicle Purchase (Gregory)- Board tabled the discussion and requested further information regarding the cost savings between lease and purchase of a vehicle. The vehicle is used to deliver materials for Library outreach visits to area assisted living centers, senior living centers and events where the Bookmobile would not be appropriate.

2. West Bozeman Library branch opportunities (Johnson)- Johnson stated the Foundation has been in talks with City officials to see what it would cost to build a Library branch on the location of the proposed Community Center. The estimate that they have for a branch Library is roughly 26 million dollars. The Foundation Board is considering doing a feasibility study among the community and our donors to see how much money could be raised privately.

3. Request for Re-consideration update (Gregory)- Director Gregory gave an update on the Request for Re-consideration of Library Materials that was received in February. She followed Collection Management policy and formed a committee made up of librarians Sarah Widger, Ellie Newell and Hannah Mundt, who reviewed the book. The committee's written decision was to retain the book in the collection and to purchase two copies of a title suggested by the complaining patrons. Gregory wrote a letter to the patron based on the committee's feedback and let them know that they now have the option to take the matter to the Library Board if they choose. Gregory has not had a response to her letter so far.

4. Youth Services Department Renovation Update (Stephenson)- Youth Services Department Head Newell, Director Gregory and Assistant Director Stephenson met with the City Facilities Superintendent and project staff to interview the three top architectural design firms resulting from the RFP process. Presentations from each firm were excellent. Newell and Stephenson took a whirlwind research trip to the Missoula Public Library and Helena's Lewis & Clark Public Library to see their children's departments because each had been designed by one of the applicants. The committee also had an online tour of the third applicant's library. The committee has narrowed it down to one firm. The next steps for the Library Foundation-funded project will be getting an RFQ from the firm with pricing information, entering into a contract and proceeding with the design.

5. Long-Term planning for use of Library property (Gregory)

Gregory and Board Chair Mohr led a discussion on the importance of coming up with a structured way that Library Trustees can consistently, fairly and equitably respond to the increasing number of people who are asking for access to the Library's 14-acre property. Some things to consider would be how big Bozeman's population will be in years to come, what technology the Library will need to provide, and the increasing value and scarcity of green space within the City.

The Library is due to begin another strategic planning phase in the next year and could include a master plan for the property within that plan. Mohr and Gregory will work with City administrative staff to explore options and keep the Board informed. There will be more to discuss in future Board meetings. Public input will be needed for planning the Library's future.

6. City Ethics Training (Gregory)- Gregory presented the City of Bozeman Ethics Training for City Boards to the Board and led a discussion of ethical issues in a variety of situations.

Correspondence – Gregory highlighted the comments from the public received this month.

Reports

Director's 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.

The Montana Library Association Conference (MLA) will be held in Bozeman March 26-29th at the Grantree Inn. The conference program agenda was provided to the Board by current MLA President and BPL staff member Sarah Widger, who highlighted programs that might be of interest to Trustees.

Gregory participated in the interview and selection of the Bozeman Police Department's new Security Support Supervisor and Security Support Officer applicants. The chosen candidates are undergoing background checks. We are working with the Police Department to see an increased security presence in the Library when these positions are filled.

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

City Commission Library Liaison - City Commissioner Jennifer Madgic- Not present so no report was provided.

Library Friends & Foundation- Foundation Director Johnson – no additional information provided.

There being no further business, Chair Mohr adjourned the meeting at 5pm.