

Bozeman Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting

April 16, 2025

Minutes

Attendance: Library Board Chair Stewart Mohr, Trustees Pam Henley, Ken Spencer and Mike Redburn; Bozeman Public Library (BPL) Director Susan Gregory; Administrative Assistant Lauranna Cossins; Department Heads Carmen Clark, Ellie Newell, & Sarah Widger; Library Friends & Foundation Director Janay Johnson; City Commissioner Jennifer Madgic; City Finance Budget Analyst Jonathan O'Dougherty

Not Present: Trustee Mike Long; Department Head Ben Nielsen

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- None.

**Approval of the Minutes**

**Action:** Trustee Henley moved to approve the minutes from the Mar. 19, 2025, Library Board meeting as submitted. Trustee Redburn seconded. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.

**Action & Discussion**

Library Security – Director Gregory discussed the letter she and the Library Board received from a Library patron regarding Library safety. The person had an interaction with another patron that caused her to be alarmed. Gregory followed up on the concerns with the patron via letter and had Bozeman Police Department (BPD) Captain Swanson reach out with a phone call to the patron to discuss the situation and the ongoing working partnership that the Library has with the Bozeman Police Department to increase Library security. He talked with the community member about our plan to have BPD Security Support Officers (SSOs) regularly patrol the Library and the fact that the Library Director had engaged private security earlier in the year for weekends. Currently, the Library has hired private firm Invictus Security for weekend security while we wait for the new BPD SSOs to finish their training. We've been told that we should see increased security presence from them by the end of the month. In the meantime, Board Chair Mohr agreed with Director Gregory that it will be prudent to ask Invictus officers to patrol the Library several afternoons during the week.

Discussion on replacement Library outreach vehicle --The Board voted at the last Board meeting to lease a new SUV for Library outreach to replace the vehicle whose lease expired earlier in the

year. This vehicle is used for outreach to senior living centers and other locations for which the Bookmobile is not appropriate. O'Dougherty shared with the Board that the current City policy would be to purchase a vehicle rather than lease and that funds to purchase a hybrid SUV for outreach had been approved. The Trustees asked to have a motion to revise their decision and approve the purchase of the vehicle instead of leasing.

**Action** Trustee Henley moved to update the Board decision and proceed with the purchase of a vehicle. Trustee Spencer seconded the motion. No further discussion. All in favor. Revision approved.

## **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 -comments included:

“I feel such a deep gratitude to have this library in my community, it's my favorite place in this valley of amazing places. I'm continuously impressed and thankful for the care and creativity generosity shown by the staff.”

“Why doesn't your courtesy phone work?”

“I would like to have board game night come back.”

There were three different comments regarding safety in the Library.

“Who are these people you're letting in the library? They look really sketchy.”

“If the security officer can open carry a weapon, why can't I?”

Department Head highlights - Department reports were provided in the Board packet prior to the meeting.

Commission Liaison Update – Madgic stated the City Commission is close to finalizing a discussion with Interim City Manager Chuck Winn regarding who should be the new City Manager.

Friends & Foundation Report – Director Johnson shared that a group of Montana library foundation board members, Friends groups and library board members wrote an op-ed about the potential loss of the federal IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) funding to the state library and the corresponding effect on Montana libraries. It was sent out to every newspaper in the state. The annual community fundraiser Give Big is coming up and the Foundation has a \$30,000 match this year. That is a big incentive for people to donate. The merging of the Friends of the Bozeman Library and the Bozeman Library Foundation has been smooth. There is a Friends Book sale in June.

Library Collection Management Presentation - Department Head Carmen Clark gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Collection Management department and how Library materials are selected. She brought several examples of book types and audiobooks for the Trustees to see.

**There being no further business, Chair Mohr adjourned the meeting at 5:07 pm.**