

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE FLATHEAD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2009 AT THE MAIN LIBRARY IN KALISPELL AT 9:00AM

PRESENT: Jane Lopp (Chair) Mark Stevens
Terry Petersen (Vice Chair) Connie Behe
Kristi Hatfield (Trustee) Rishara Finsel
Laura Long (Trustee) Marilyn Campbell
Kim Crowley (Library Director) Lynn Kelly
Karen Marr (Minute Clerk) Susan Larson
Barb Boorman
Barbara Nordtome
Tony Edmundson

ABSENT: Connie Leistiko (Trustee)

WELCOME: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05am and welcomed those present.

OPEN TIME FOR PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Mark Stevens spoke to the Board with several concerns. He feels that the book return in the alley needs to be re-configured to prevent damage to books being returned. He is also concerned that some WWII books & maps have been discarded. He asked if the “weed” list is signed to authorize the removal of the materials.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED BY L LONG, “that the minutes from the regular meeting on September 24, 2009 are approved as presented.”

SECONDED BY K HATFIELD

CARRIED

REPORTS:

A. Financial Report – Marr

1. September reports are preliminary
2. Interlibrary Loan reimbursement of \$19,713.39 was received from the Montana State Library.
3. FY10 Per Capita payment of \$7,809.23 was also received from the MSL.
4. Expenses in Fund 7055 will be itemized for easy identification.

MOVED BY L LONG, “that the Preliminary Financial Reports for the month of September, 2009 are accepted”.

SECONDED BY K HATFIELD

CARRIED

B. Director’s Report – Crowley

1. Statistics –
 - a. September historical checkouts are up 46% from five years ago and up 13% over September 2008.

- b. YTD checkouts (July 1 – Sept 30) are up 14% over last year and building traffic is up 7.5% systemwide.
 - c. The number of holds placed by customers is growing considerably.
- 2. Crowley reported that a 2000 Dodge Maxi van has been purchased to replace the old Ford van. The new van is much larger and will accommodate the growing number of books being transported.
- 3. Correspondence –
 - a. Kathy Folden wrote a letter about the “Banned Books Week” display. She objected to the signs on the books with the international symbol for “NO”. Crowley will write a letter in response and invite her to come in for a meeting.
 - b. A thank you letter was received from Human Therapy on Horseback for the \$2,000 donation earned by the children who read extra hours in the Summer Reading Program. The money for the donation was pledged by the Friends of the Library.
- 4. Big Read Report – Rishara Finsel
 - a. The Big Read was a month of events and activities centered on “To Kill a Mockingbird”.
 - b. Adult attendance was more than double the attendance in 2008.
 - c. Teen and children attendance was also up this year.
 - d. Fourteen hundred copies of “To Kill a Mockingbird” were distributed.
 - e. Several groups and businesses partnered with the library to provide additional resources above the actual grant.

C. Resolution re: retirement – Lopp (Action)

MOVED BY L LONG, “that the Board approves the resolution acknowledging Sidney Johnson’s 33 years of service”.

SECONDED BY K HATFIELD

CARRIED

Staff members assembled as Jane Lopp presented Sidney Johnson with flowers and a framed resolution in recognition of her 33 years of service. Johnson will retire October 27, 2009. Lopp read the resolution and congratulated Johnson; other board members gave congratulatory remarks as well.

Continuation of Director’s Report

- 5. Crowley announced the death of Ferne Cohen who was a long time volunteer at the Whitefish Branch Library. Crowley is sending a personal note and Long will draft a letter to be signed at the December meeting to be mailed before the memorial service in January.
- 6. Crowley reported on the Whitefish Council Study Session on October 19, 2009. Lopp, Peterson, Crowley, Behe, and Kositzky were all in attendance.
 - a. A group of Whitefish residents requested the study session to discuss their complaints about the management of the Whitefish Branch Library of the Flathead County Library System.

- b. Crowley presented information to the Board in response to allegations made at the Council meeting:
 - i. Data showing that staffing at the Whitefish Branch has increased, not decreased
 - ii. Distribution of new materials to the Whitefish Branch exceeds the existing FCLS guidelines of 20% to Columbia Falls and Whitefish, 10% to Bigfork, and 50% to the Main Library.

DISCUSSION: Petersen said that what she is hearing from some residents in Whitefish is they don't want additional taxes and they want to maintain their autonomy as a small town. She added that the Council will want to know the bottom line to determine if the City can afford an independent library. Lopp summarized the evolution of the Flathead County Library System.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Change in materials checkout rules – Crowley (Action)

- 1. There are now 101 libraries in the Montana Shared Catalog.
- 2. To simplify circulation rules in the Montana Shared Catalog, the membership has voted to change the 10-day loan period to a 14-day loan period. All Montana Shared Catalog libraries will have the same loan periods. This is the only circulation rule that FCLS will have to change to comply. It will not go into effect until sometime in 2010, when all Partner libraries can change at once.

MOVED BY L LONG, "that the Board authorizes the Library Director to modify the circulation policy for new materials and DVDs to change 10 Day items to 14 Days to conform with the Montana Shared Catalog."

SECONDED BY T PETERSEN

CARRIED

B. Interlibrary Loan reimbursement re-appropriation – Crowley

- 1. There is approximately \$200,000 in the State budget to assist libraries in loaning materials to other libraries. The legislature changed the law to allow this money to be spent on other than ILL reimbursement.
- 2. Before Partners came into being, the money was allocated on a per loan basis.
- 3. The re-appropriation would give \$100,000 to the Shared Catalog and \$100,000 to OCLC, a bibliographic utility to which we subscribe.

C. Letter of support for re-appropriation (Action)

MOVED BY K HATFIELD, "that the Board support the Library Director in making the decision to make the recommendation for the changes".

SECONDED BY L LONG Long, Hatfield, Lopp – Aye Petersen – Nay

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 11:40a.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: December 3, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Bigfork Branch Library, 525 Electric Avenue, Bigfork