

Whitman County Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Public Meeting at the Colfax Branch of the Whitman County Library
October, 2023

Present: Suzanne Schmick, Cindy Alred, Heather Lustig, Shirley Cornelius, Sheri Miller, and Cody Allen

Heather Lustig called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

There were no additions or modifications to the agenda.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Minutes of the September 19 meeting, and Resolutions 23-27, 23-28, 23-29, 23-30, and 23-31 were approved by a vote of the Board.

Reports

September financial documents were presented to the board and a brief explanation about them was given.

In the director's report, Cody attended a library director's retreat in Spokane two weeks ago. One of the presentations was on how to conduct an election. The retreat was held at the downtown Spokane Library which had just completed a renovation without going to the voters. They got a \$9 million loan from the state and the rest of the funds came from fundraising. The directors also went over a report commissioned by the state library on digital navigation. The directors have concerns about the data collection and the results from that data collection. The report is now published and the directors are looking at ways that they can dispute the findings. Cody also went to the fall meeting of the Inland Northwest Partners held in Couer D'Alene. The meeting went over economic and labor conditions in Washington and Idaho. Avista and Innovia have shown willingness to partner with the library on future digital navigation projects. Banned Books week overall went well. There was one question from a patron on our display but overall the display went well. Our Facebook post drew quite a few posts outside of our community which seemed to be more politically motivated. Because we are a public agency, our options to restrict are limited. Hot spots are back in circulation and Take Back Drugs day will happen at the end of the month. Kathy and James are looking at how the online catalog looks and see if we can change its appearance. In the near future, we hope to purge accounts older than three years and accounts with fines that are over seven years, which is the time limit we can collect on fines.

Continuing Business

In Branch news, the building that the Albion library is in, is not ADA accessible and the City of Albion would like to work with us to secure funding to fix the issue. The library at Endicott is also not ADA accessible and there is grant funding out there for ADA fixes. The town of Malden is finalizing the design of their new community center. The Rosalia library is in the community center now but there are issues with patrons accessing the front door and the

entrance to the back has a high step. The town thinks the water problem has been fixed and the insurance adjuster should be coming in soon to assess the damage done to the library.

In Library usage, circulation continues to be flat. Program attendance continues to be up. Facebook and Instagram usage is still up and newsletter engagement is up. Data base usage is still down led by Rural Heritage.

The director handed out the current personnel policy with proposed changes highlighted in yellow. The board members in attendance reviewed the changes but would like to wait until all members are in attendance to approve the changes.

New Business

The library received correspondence from the county auditor on whether we wanted to be included in the 2024 voter's pamphlet. That brought up the discussion on whether we wanted to put a levy lid left on the November 2024 ballot. The director would like to wait until at least 2025 if we could and the board agreed.

The Chamber of Commerce would like to put their office in the front of the Center instead of their current office. Cody will discuss with the Friends at their board meeting on Wednesday.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 PM by Heather Lustig.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, November 21, at 4:00 PM at the Colfax branch of the Whitman County Library.



Shirley Cornelius



Ronda Penwell, Chair