



## LIBRARIES

**Library Board of Trustees Special Meeting  
Wednesday, June 19, 2019 9:00 am  
ImagineIF Kalispell  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Present: Michael Morton, Marsha Sultz, Connie Leistiko, Al Logan, Heidi Roedel (Board); Connie Behe, Teri Dugan, Martha Furman, Sean Anderson (Staff); Charlotte Housel (Foundation); M. Davis, Roy Beekman, B Watt Jorck, Kianna Gardner, Barbara Boorman, Molly Pridy.**

- A. Call to Order:** M. Morton called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.
- B. Open time for persons to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction.**  
Library Chair, Morton opened the meeting to public comment. No comments received.
- C. County Ownership of Library Facilities**
- A.** Discuss memo from the Commissioners relaying their stance that they do not intend to own library facilities now or in the future.
- M. Morton read aloud a memo from the Flathead County Commissioners dated May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Morton put forth the question if the Library Board would like to respond to the County Commissioners.
  - Behe clarified that it was her intention to move the Bigfork CIP project forward two years to FY22 as recommended by the commission. There was a misunderstanding as to whether the project was currently in FY20 or FY21, thus causing a mix up as to what year it would land in by moving it out 2 years.
  - Behe shared information on current trends in public library funding. The national funding rate of libraries with public monies is 86% and ImagineIF Libraries is in line with that statistic.
  - Leistiko would like to write a written response to the commissioner memo. Key subject points to be included in the response was discussed.

**Moved by C. Leistiko** "to create a letter of response to the County Commissioners memo dated May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 to include discussed key items."

**Seconded by A. Logan**

**Discussion:** Behe will draft the letter and it will be brought to the board on June 26 for discussion.

Time for persons to address the Board about the memo.

M. Davis asked for a copy of the memo. Davis requested the memo be made public so citizens could evaluate it. Beekman shared it was short sighted on the counties part to not wish to own buildings.

**Unanimous Vote**

**APPROVED**

**D. Kalispell Facility**

**A.** Proposal from the Kalispell Center Mall to work with the Library and County Commissioners to renovate the Herberger's store into a new library facility.

- Behe provided details and information regarding the property.
- Morton stated the mall owners suggested a lease or purchase option. The purchase option seemed a more affordable option for the county and is why that option was pursued.
- The mall owners would like to move forward with a presentation to the County Commissioners.
- Federal funding options could be available. Behe will research options for federal funding.

**Moved by A. Logan** "to accept the Eric and David Peterson request to present their proposal to the Flathead Board of Commissioners."

**Seconded by M. Sultz**

**Discussion:** none

**Unanimous Vote**

**ACCEPTED**

**E. Bigfork Facility**

**A.** Bigfork Capital Campaign status and the impact of the Commissioners' memo regarding the County ownership of library facilities.

- Housel provided details and information regarding the progress of the Bigfork Library capital campaign.
- Housel shared the need for direction from the Library Board as to how to proceed with the fundraising.

**Moved by C. Leistiko** "to advise the Library Foundation to continue with the Capital Campaign for a new library facility in Bigfork with total transparency to prospective donors regarding the commissioners stance on owning facilities."

**Seconded by M. Sultz.**

**Discussion:** none

**Unanimous Vote**

**APPROVED**

**F. Legal Considerations**

**A.** Research legal considerations involving local governmental support for public libraries.

- Discussion about facility ownership by the library board took place.
- Leistiko clarified that the library board and the county commission work in tandem to provide library services to the public.
- Behe is currently seeking clarification from the Montana State Library as to the statute for a Library Board to own property.
- A legal opinion might be needed to clarify the law in this situation.
- This topic will be tabled.

**BREAK 10:51  
RESUME 11:05**

**G. Community Transparency**

- A.** A community supported public library requires a high level of engagement from the community. What is our strategy for engaging the community in the future of the library?
- Behe is creating an advocacy plan. Housel has prepared an advocacy kit used by the library foundation.
  - An effort to provide more information in meeting agendas is underway.
  - Sultz would like to see a public forum to engage the community. Behe offered to form these forums and will coordinate dates to run by the board.
  - The Friends of The Library are a support group that could be used to help advocate library facilities and services.

**H. Library District**

- A.** Library district process in brief, pros, cons, etc.
- Behe shared information about the formation of a library district. The pros and cons of being a library district were discussed.
  - Leistiko suggested gathering more details about becoming a library district.
  - Leistiko felt the Board should not pursue the formation of a district now due to the current workload at hand but would like to keep it as a consideration in the future.

**I. June 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**A.** Change the start time of the June 26 board meeting from 9AM to 10AM.  
**Moved by M. Sultz** "to change the time of the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting from 9-12 to 10-1."

**Seconded by C. Leistiko**

**Discussion:** none

**Unanimous Vote**

**APPROVED**

All locations closed July 12 for Run Lock Fight staff training.  
Morton thanked the community guests.

**Adjourned: 11:53AM**