



LIBRARIES

**Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2021
Online Meeting
MEETING MINUTES**

Online attendance: Marsha Sultz, Connie Leistiko, Heidi Roedel, Doug Adams, Al Logan (Board); Connie Behe, Teri Dugan, Sean Anderson, Lune Axelsen, Chris Cunningham, Pam Flink, Ashley Palmer, Tony Edmundson, Jennifer Desch, Kat Wilson, Ellie Newell, Martha Furman, Megan Glidden, Tony Edmundson, Deidre McMullin, Alice Ebi, Liza Butler-Aveson (Staff); Maggie Davis, Jessica Kirkendall (member of the public)

A. Call to Order: Leistiko called the meeting to order at 9:02 pm.

B. Open time for persons to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction.

Jessica Kirkendall stated that the library is not accessible to those who don't wear or can't wear face coverings. She would like to know if a better policy is in the works and what the library board can do to fix that. C. Leistiko stated that the meeting agenda topics would address these concerns and discussion will take place.

C. Approval of Minutes Board Meeting, Thursday, January 28, 2020 **(ACTION)**
Moved by A. Logan "to approve the January 28th, 2020 board minutes as amended with Jessica Treweek added to attendance list in the beginning of the document."

Seconded by M. Sultz
Motion passed unanimously

D. Reports

A. Financial Report

Moved by A. Logan "to accept the January 2021 Financial report as presented."

Seconded by H. Roedel
Motion passed unanimously

B. Director and Staff Reports

- Behe discussed the mask requirement in the library and the process that is being used to weigh community feedback with staff needs and public health guidelines. All sides of the community perspectives are considered in every

decision. Behe's mission as director is to provide the most services to the most people while keeping staff reasonably safe.

- The county has requested that Flathead County department heads create reopening plans that works for their individual departments; considering unique services, foot traffic, and consulting with the Public Health Officer.
- Behe reviewed the draft transition plan with the board. Questions were taken.
- Adams said the draft reopening plan had a conservative timeline and he would prefer it to move faster. Adams said masks are not necessary.
- Leistiko expressed appreciation for the difficult work Behe put into the reopening plan in taking into consideration competing views.
- Behe shared and described current services being offered by the library.
- Behe reviewed multiple solutions that allowed for the library to remain open and continue to provide a relatively safe environment.
- Kirkendall commented that Flathead county COVID-19 cases are down as well as hospitalizations. Fatality data is minimal to none. Kirkendall wanted to know why the delay to reopen fully when current data does not support being closed.
- Behe explained that the data needs to be interpreted with unique library services and spaces in mind.
- Questions were received on the written director's report.
- Adams appreciated the work Behe has put into attending numerous meetings. Behe is putting in the due diligence and responding to the community.
- Logan expressed appreciation for Behe's due diligence and for the drafted plan to fully open the library.
- Leistiko thanked Behe for sharing thoughts and solutions on implementing a reopening plan, which is solidly within the purview of the library director.
- Sultz suggested putting the implementation plan on the March agenda. Leistiko agreed.

Website Draft Presentation

- Axelsen shared the new library website prototype with the group. The new website features new bright and bold colors and a stacked layout.
- Summer of 2021 is the projected launch date of the new website.

C. Facilities Committee Report- Logan and Adams

- Behe had a conversation with the Superintendent of School District 5. An offer has been made on the building that houses the library and the school district. Action has not been taken. Behe reminded the board of the risk of the library being located in a leased building.
- Logan interjected that solutions and discussions should take place now regarding the creation of a 5-year contingency plan to have in place in the event the building is sold.

D. Foundation Report

- Housel out of town. Report coming next month.

E. Old Business

A. Exploratory Mill Levy Committee Report

- Behe shared information on polling options to consider. This item will be put on next month's agenda.
- The committee has identified the key issues with funding and will bring the report to the next board meeting.

B. FY22 County Budget Planning Update

- The Commissioners' have approved a 1.2% cost of living increase for FY22 for library salaries.
- FY22 county CIP sheets have been submitted.
- Upcoming budget deadlines were discussed and shared.

F. New Business

- A.** Personnel Matter: Upgrade Bigfork Library Advisor to Branch Manager I.

Meeting entered Executive Session at 11:23 am at request of employee.

Discussion took place regarding the promotion of D. McMullin to Library Branch Manager I.

Executive session closed and public session reopened at 11:55.

Moved by A. Logan "to request to upgrade Bigfork Library Advisor Deidre McMullin to Branch Manager I."

Seconded by D. Adams

Motion passed unanimously

G. Housekeeping: Next regular meeting: Wednesday, March 31st 2021. Online.

H. Adjourn: Leistiko adjourned the meeting at 12:00