



LIBRARIES

**Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, March 31, 2021
Online Meeting
MEETING MINUTES**

Online attendance: Connie Leistiko, Heidi Roedel, Doug Adams, Al Logan (Board); Connie Behe, Teri Dugan, Sean Anderson, Tony Edmundson, Ellie Newell, Martha Furman, Deidre McMullin, Jennifer Desch (Staff); Charlotte Housel, Erica Wirtala (Library Foundation); Maggie Davis, (member of the public)

A. Call to Order: Leistiko called the meeting to order at 9:04 pm.

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

Library Board Chair C. Leistiko thanked Maggie Davis for the notes from the February 25th meeting.

From: Jessica Brown Kirkendall on "Messenger"

I wanted to request that children without masks can attend the library very soon. Across the entire state many libraries have fully opened their doors. Last week I was in Idaho and large beautiful libraries were fully accessible to all people without any restrictions.

We need our library back for our children and community.

Since the library is paid for by the public, it should follow county and state health guidelines, which is that masks are optional. Since the library is not a "private" business, it should not have independent mask ordinances forced on the patrons.

C. Approval of Minutes Board Meeting, Thursday, February 25, 2020 **(ACTION)**
Moved by A. Logan "to approve the February 25, 2021 board minutes with discussed corrections."

Seconded by D. Adams

Motion passed unanimously

D. Reports

A. Financial Report- Behe, Dugan

Behe has requested reimbursement from the county from CARES grant for library personal protection equipment purchased in FY20.

Moved by D. Adams "to accept the February 2021 Financial report as presented."

Seconded by A. Logan

Motion passed unanimously

B. Director and Staff Reports-Behe

- Behe announced that Megan Glidden will be leaving in May. Glidden will be relocating to New Mexico and will be moving into a Library Director position there.
- The library board personnel committee will meet to discuss Connie's recommendation to reorganize library management.
- Connie gave provided history about Columbia Falls Library Association. Any future donations will need to work within the library's and County's finance guidelines without additional administrative work. Roedel inquired about a CFLA representative to be appointed.
- Behe will make sure the public has all the information needed as we near our full open hours transitioning procedure.
- Roedel received a comment via email regarding the transition plan. This comment is included in opening statements from the public.
- Behe took questions regarding the written director's report.
- Roedel asked for documentation of resources Behe is using to base reopening decisions on.

C. Facilities Committee Report- Logan and Adams

- The committee will meet on April 2 to discuss the new Bigfork library. The MOU between the county and the library foundation will be discussed.
- A developer made an offer to the School District to purchase the building that houses the Kalispell library. They did not accept the offer. Discussion is needed regarding action necessary if library building is sold in the future.

D. Personnel Committee Report- Roedel

- The personnel committee met to discuss the director evaluation process and procedures. The evaluation will be in May.

E. Foundation Report- Housel

- Events and benefits are planned to continue fundraising for the Bigfork library.
- The library foundation name has legally been changed to ImagineIF Libraries Foundation. This helps give clarification to donors.
- Current projects include policy updates.
- Summer events planning and scheduling is active.
- Roedel will attend the next foundation meeting in Leistiko's absence.

BREAK 9:58a-10:10a

E. Old Business

A. Exploratory Mill Levy Committee Report-Leistiko, Roedel, Behe, Housel.

- Behe reviewed pros and cons associated with all the options of seeking a mill levy. Behe clarified the objectives of a spring public poll.
- Roedel reminded the board that data for voters is available from the election department and may be useful.
- Leistiko would like a vote to be taken next month regarding the decision of the library board to move forward with the polling.

- An offer has been made to purchase the building in which the library currently resides.
- Discussion took place about options and data that could be collected in a public opinion poll.
- The possibility of forming a district was brought up by Adams.
- Behe stated that data from the polling would be useful whether a mill levy was put forth or not.
- Logan said sustained funding from the county might not be guaranteed if a levy was passed.
- Adams suggested a special joint session with the commissioners to discuss funding options, library buildings and the Bigfork library. The last week of April was suggested.

B. FY22 County Budget Planning Update

- Behe reviewed the submitted FY22 proposed budget. A meeting with the county finance department and county admin has been scheduled for April 13 at 1:30. This meeting will review the proposed budget.

C. County CIP Account and Library Depreciation Fund

- Discussion took place regarding the action of separating the library depreciation fund from the capital improvement projects fund.
- Behe mentioned reinserting future library buildings in the CIP planning projects for the library. This topic could be approached at the joint session with the county commissioners.

F. New Business

A. Library Transition Plan

- The status of the reopening plan of the library was discussed. Positive response from the community has been received.
- A decision to keep the 30-minute time limit restriction had not yet been decided.

B. Trustee Appointment Procedure

- A library trustee position will be available on July 1. Posting for interested applicants will be in May.
- Roedel requested the application process begin as soon as possible. Behe will get that request going.

C. Code of Conduct Policy

- The library is housed in a school district building and our programs attract large gatherings of children. Caitlin Overland, County Attorney's Office, recommends waiting for more legislation to come through before making changes to policy.

D. Naming Opportunities for new Bigfork Library

- Housel shared information about naming opportunities for the future Bigfork library facility. Housel has added additional opportunities for giving that offer the benefit of naming areas of the new library such as a reading room or courtyard area.

G. Housekeeping: Next regular meeting: Updated to Wednesday, April 29, 2021. Online.

H. Adjourn: Leistiko adjourned the meeting at 11:50a.