May 15, 2022

Flathead County Commissioners
800 S. Main
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear County Commissioners:

Several weeks ago at a public meeting the Imaginelf staff shared anecdotes of their personal interactions with library patrons.

The stories were illuminating and inspiring.

Illuminating because they showed the vast array of services the libraries provide, how important those services can be for patrons, how diverse the patron base is, the competence of the staff, and the staff's passion that has made Imaginelf an award winning library system.

It was impossible for me to hear the staff's presentation and not be inspired to do all I can to support the Imaginelf Libraries. The most obvious way of course, is serving as a Library Trustee.

My application for Imaginelf Libraries Board Member is attached.

Sincerely,

Diane Taylor-Mahnke
IMAGINE IF LIBRARIES BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

1. How did you learn about the open position on the Library Board?

2. In what ways do you feel connected to the library’s mission?

3. Why are you interested in serving on the Board?

4. Do you have any previous leadership or board service experience? Please provide information about current and previous board experience.

5. What kinds of skills or expertise can you offer to the Board? How will the organization benefit from your participation?

6. Will your schedule allow you to regularly attend board meetings? And, participate in committee work between meetings?

7. Our trustees are all certified through the Montana State Library and attend trainings both locally and at the State level.
   http://libraries.msl.mt.gov/library_development/certification
   Will your schedule allow you to attend trainings?
I am not sure whether I learned about the opening at a Trustee meeting, from a newspaper article, or from a friend.

The library's mission to provide safe and fair access to books and information was my personal mission when I decided to pursue a career as a school librarian.

I am a library wonk. I love everything about them, from perusing the Baker and Taylor catalog (which Mr. Anderson's selection presentation brought to mind) to the difficult decisions about which books do actually get selected. I didn't realize how much I missed having library issues be a major part of my focus until I started attending the Board meetings and would love to have the opportunity to make them so again.

I have served on the Deer Park School Board, as Co-Chair of the Community Congregational United Church Of Christ Board, as President of the Northwest Montana Reading Council, on the Board for 350 Glacier, am currently Secretary/Treasurer of the Citizens For A Better Flathead Board, have been 1st Vice-President and am currently Co-President of Flathead County Democratic Women.

I can balance the Board by offering insights gained from 15 years experience as a school librarian and from workshops attended as a member of the Montana Library Association, the American Association of School Librarians, and the American Library Association.

The organization will benefit from my participation because I have a background knowledge of library issues, enjoy researching to learn all sides of an issue, and do consider all perspectives when making a decision.

Yes.

http://libraries.msl.mt.gov/library_development/certification

Not only will my schedule allow me to attend trainings, but I will be delighted to do so.
Please provide three references who could speak to your ability to serve on the ImagineIF Libraries Board of Trustees:

Name: DOROTHY LAIRD
Title: FORMER DIRECTOR FLATHEAD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEMS
Phone: 
Email address: 

Name: BOB BROWN
Title: FORMER MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE
Phone: 
Email address: 

Name: GIL JORDAN
Title: FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MUSEUM AT CENTRAL SCHOOL;
FORMER MEMBER IMAGINEIF FOUNDATION BOARD
Phone: 
Email address: 