

Flathead County Board of Commissioners  
800 South Main Street  
Kalispell, MT 59901



RE: Library Trustee Position

Dear Library Trustees and Commissioners;

Attached please find my application for the ImagineIt Library Board Member position for your consideration.

I feel that I am a well-qualified candidate in that I have a clear vision of the 'work' of the Trustees. In my eyes, the Trustees are responsible for good governance and ethical decision making on behalf of the library. This also ensures that the library will continue as a vibrant and inventive place that is inviting to all members of our community. Records indicate that 800 people visit the main library every day- something not found in many of our downtown businesses with the exception of the vehicle registration department. And when someone returns a book to the library, they also typically make a bank deposit, pick up a cup of coffee, shop for a gift or browse the new skiis at RMO. A good library is great for business!

As Flathead County shoulders the great burden of being the 'fastest growing Micropolitan', we are tasked to represent a more diverse population on our bookshelves, music racks, video selection, and services offered. The National Association of Realtors claim that the top three items people look for when they move to a new location are schools, recreational opportunities and libraries. To beckon an educated workforce to the valley, it is critical to maintain a diverse collection so that people can find materials within that library that 'look like them'. A good library is great for attracting employees!

My mother is an MLS librarian who just recently retired at 83. My grandmother was a school librarian. I was on the Library Foundation when my children were toddlers, and then again on the Foundation currently. I was President of the Friends of the Library for many years and still schlep boxes of books for them at their annual book sales. I would consider myself a 'super-user' of the ImagineIt Library as I visit 1-3 times a week picking up books, audio books, movies and magazines. I use the Montana Library ToGo, CreativeBug and Libby and recommend the library to all of my friends. A good library is great for life-long learners!

With my experience and passion, I can be a voice for the library mission in a fair manner while being an advocate for the staff and taking the concerns of patrons and community into consideration. I think you would find me to be a hardworking and open-minded Trustee and would appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica Wirtala".  
Erica Wirtala

## IMAGINEIF LIBRARIES BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

Name: Erica Wirtala

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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

General knowledge.

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

Both my Mother and Grandmother were professional librarians, so a large part of my growing up years were spent in library stacks. I would consider myself a 'super user' of the ImagineIF Library, visiting 1-3 times a week. I have served several terms on the ImagineIF Library Foundation Board and been a member of the Friends of the Library for many years. I feel well connected to our library and its Mission.

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

As libraries are my obvious passion, I am interested in taking on a more substantive role than just fundraising or schlepping boxes of books for the Book Sale. Our community has been so fortunate to have an award-winning library at the heart of our downtown and I would commit my personal best to seeing that wonderful work continue and thrive.

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

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce-Current President of the Board

NW MT Community Land Trust-Current Board member (third term)

West Valley Land Use Advisory Committee-Vice Chair of the Committee

ImagineIF Library Foundation- Current Board member (third term)\*resignation if appointed Trustee

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

I feel I have a good track record of accomplishing an organization's goals, maintaining timelines and adhering to protocols. I am a good listener, active participant, open-minded and hard worker.

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

Yes, I have a flexible schedule.

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](http://libraries.msl.mt.gov/library_development/certification)

Will your schedule allow you to attend trainings?

Yes, I would be able to attend trainings.

**Please provide three references who could speak to your ability to serve on the ImagineIF Libraries Board of Trustees:**

Name: Bill Leininger  
Title: Realtor, Owner of Dean & Leininger brokerage. President, Montana Association of REALTOR  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Email address: [REDACTED]

Name: Senator Mark Blasdel  
Title: Owner, Vista Linda restaurant. Past President of the Senate, Speaker of the House MT Legislature  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Email address: [REDACTED]

Name: Lorraine Clarno  
Title: President/CEO Kalispell Chamber of Commerce  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Email address: [REDACTED]