



IMAGINE IT! LIBRARIES BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

Name: John C. (Jake) Fulkerson

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

1. How did you learn about the open position on the Library Board?  
Newspaper; Library Meeting.
2. In what ways do you feel connected to the library's mission? For the past 12 years I have been very involved in Education and Libraries. When I moved to the Flathead Valley a year and a half ago, I was asked to join the Capital Campaign Committee for the Bigfork Library. I attended a few Library Trustee Meetings. I also attended a Foundation retreat. Through this process I became aware of all of the great things our Library can contribute to the community. On a micro level I began taking my 5-year-old granddaughter to the Bigfork Library. The monthly kits they were handing out became a huge hit.
3. Why are you interested in serving on the Board? I was very involved in the Community in Wyoming before moving to Kalispell. I have always enjoyed community service. Since moving here I have been looking for an opportunity. I have spent the last six months researching the library, attending Trustee meetings and a Foundation meeting. I don't take this decision lightly.
4. Do you have any previous leadership or board service experience? Please provide information about current and previous board experience. From 2008 to 2016 I was on the Park County, WY School Board; Chair for three years. From 2016 to 2020, I was on the Board of County Commissioners; Chair for one year. Other board service experience includes: Chair, Administrative Council, Cody United Methodist Church; Chair, Cody Economic Development Council; Chair, Cody Rotary; Chair, Cody Rotary Foundation
5. What kinds of skills or expertise can you offer to the Board? How will the organization benefit from your participation? As a County Commissioner, I was the liaison to the Park County Library system for four years. The system consists of buildings in three towns. I attended monthly meetings as a nonvoting member. The learning curve was steep the first year with a \$1,800,000 budget and 40 employees. I enjoyed the assignment and received satisfaction from being a small part of a highly successful system.

6. Will your schedule allow you to regularly attend board meetings? And, participate in committee work between meetings? I am retired available to attend 80% of the meetings in person and 20% remote.

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? If selected, I will make this a priority. I am a proponent of certifications and continuing education. The requirement of 15 credits in 4 years would be achieved.

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

Name: Dossie Overfield

Title: Chair, Park County, Board of County Commissioners

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

Name: Walter Kuhn

Title: Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, Bigfork, MT

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

Name: Nicholle Gerharter

Title: Manager, Cody Library, Park County Library

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]