

**LINCOLN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
LIBBY BRANCH & ZOOM  
THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024**

**Trustees Present:** Barb Hvizdak, Annie Gassmann, Kerri Teisberg, Laura Finley, Mark Roesler-Begalke, Mike Mason.

**Others Present:** Alyssa Ramirez (Director LCL), Sharee Miller (Troy Branch Librarian) (Zoom), Siri Larsen (Eureka Branch Librarian) (Zoom), Dustina Deans, Kara Orban (Montana State Library), Tracy Cook (Montana State Library), Justin Hoerner, Ray Stout (Kootenai Valley Record) (Zoom).

**Call to Order:** Hvizdak called today's meeting to order at 10:03am.

**Public Comment:** N/A

**Approval of the Agenda:** Hvizdak made a motion to table election of new board positions until the July meeting, seconded by Finley; approved. Teisberg made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Hvizdak; approved.

**Consent Agenda:** Approval of minutes for May 23, 2024 and June 11, 2024 (Work Session) meetings and Financial Report for FY24 June was moved by Hvizdak, seconded by Finley; approved.

**Director's Report:** see attached report

Hvizdak made a motion to accept the June Director's Report, seconded by Finley; approved.

**Unfinished Business:**

Committee Updates:

- District:
  - Lost by 60 votes
  - Will discuss this more later in meeting
- Budget:
  - Coming up on end of fiscal year
  - Working to balance budget—coming in on target
  - FY25 will be discussed later in meeting
- TLOC:
  - Should know about Zinke funding by end of year

Board Vacancy Update:

- Commissioners appointed Mark Roesler-Begalke and Mike Mason
- Annie was not reappointed and no one was appointed in her position on the board
  - There is now another vacancy on the board

## **Work Session with Tracy Cook and Cara Orban, Montana State Library**

### Library District

- Goals for Today:
  - Decide if we go for a district again or mill levy
- Notes
  - Voter feedback/data collection
    - How many people didn't vote b/c it was on the back of the ballot?
    - How many people thought it was in November?
  - People reported that they did not receive their postcards in the mail
    - Annie was handing out tons of postcards at the Farmer's Market b/c they didn't receive theirs
  - Ballot language
- Great Falls Public Library—very contentious mill levy campaign
  - Hired an outside firm to direct messaging and get good data to help make decisions along the way
    - Would the Foundation be able to support us in this?
  - Hire an election monitor
- District is the better option
  - Work on messaging based on location, use, gains, etc.
  - Have to do same ask again
  - Need to get voter feedback and regroup/restrategize before going again
  - Being in on a primary election or special election is best
- Campaigning
  - Small group meetings/discussions were more productive
  - This campaign was a big hurdle because people did not know about the financial problems facing the county and the library—a lot of education up front
  - Far out places like Happy's Inn, do not see the impact of the library in their lives—Kalispell is closer
- Why did the library work?
  - People need the library no matter what—it is always there no matter your age or place in life
    - like what the library is doing
    - the library is not political
    - library staff
    - clear and consistent messaging
    - people getting to meet the trustees
    - yard signs, mailer, newspaper ads—got the information out there
- To Do:
  - Voter reconnaissance—data and information gathering (market research)
    - What do we want to know?
  - How to adjust messaging?
  - Get 'yes' voters to help us
  - Which election are we going to go for?
    - Would the commissioners be willing to do a resolution again?
    - Meetings with commissioners about their role in campaigning

- District committee—Who will do each task?

#### FY25 Budget

- 8 budget options presented depending on mills available
- We will need to get clarification from commissioners on exact funding
- Options for rehiring for Dusty's position or ramifications for not filling that position; fill at ½ time?
- Reducing open hours but having staff have same hours to be able to accomplish administrative tasks while in keeping county requirements (at all branches)
- Apply for deferment with State Library for not meeting the standard for required hours open—we will have to show proof of efforts to meet those hours
- Potential closures could happen beginning in August (closing the basement, during lunch, one day a week) –will be saving some money in the interim by not rehiring
- Still planning to rehire a full time for fear of losing entire position
- Volunteers are difficult to utilize because they need to be consistent/reliable –best if used for a one-time opportunity and not weekly programming
- Need to make a decision regarding staffing/closures at next meeting
- Need to get question answered on permissive tax funding because it will effect our budget—commissioners will not know about the budget until August—Barb will speak to Teske to start
- Option 1 and 1-A are operating with half of our book budget

#### **Housekeeping**

July 19<sup>th</sup> at 1pm Fiesta Potluck and Uno Party—Alyssa's going away party

- Board Meetings
  - July 25, Eureka
  - August 22, Troy
  - September 19, Libby
- Library Calendar
  - July 4, Independence Day
  - August 30, Staff Meeting
  - September 2, Labor Day

#### **Adjourn:**

#### Meeting Adjourned

Hvizdak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:02pm, seconded by Teisberg; approved.