

Missoula Public Library
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 2025
6:00 pm

Missoula Public Library, Blackfoot Room & ZOOM online meeting

Citizen comments are very important to the Library Trustees. Policy states that public comment is limited to three minutes on each agenda item or three minutes at the beginning of the meeting on items not on the agenda.

ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Chair Megan Moore.

ROLL CALL: Peter Donaldson, Julie Edwards, Megan Moore, Alex Beal, Katy Walter, Janice Nugent

OTHERS PRESENT: Slaven Lee, Chris Lounsbury, Elizabeth Jonkel, Virginia Harris, Dory Athey, Will Klaczynski, Robert Mueller

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON ANYTHING NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA

None.

Slaven gave an update on the Pitney Bowes machine - we're in a three-year contract leasing the meter for postage. It makes more sense to lease than buy since parts of the machine have to be leased and the machine itself needs to be regularly replaced.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes – December 18, 2024

Claims – December 2024

Statistics – December 2024

Discussion: Some questions about claims and expenses and the service agreements about them. Consent agenda approved.

Citizen Comments: None

2. NEW BUSINESS

Funding Discussion - Chris Lounsbury gave a history of the last mill the library did. The library asked for \$995,000 in 2006. When the mill was passed an average homeowner (\$300,000 house) paid about \$23

a year. With the increase in population people are now paying about \$11. We haven't seen any inflation, and with costs increasing the county is picking up the difference. The library, if it levies five mills instead of the fixed dollar amount, would gain about an additional \$1 million/year. There can be a repeal and replace process, which is not a new mill, does not affect the current commitment, and asks people to go back to paying \$23/year when the mill was passed.

Janice and had some questions about what people are paying for the current building. Alex had some questions about current legislation that may affect this process as well as where the original number came from. Chris can forward the original resolution to the board. Peter had questions about why we haven't seen a change in 18 years.

The ask is to put this on the ballot for 2026. If it is not successful, the library wouldn't lose funding. The board will vote on this at the February meeting.

Action Item: Megan will share training information about mills for the next board meeting.

Citizen comments: None.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Slaven welcomed Virginia Harris, the MSW student who is helping shape the library program. She will do needs assessments, stakeholder assessments, and more so that the next intern can work more directly with individuals.

Daniel's Woodland is scheduled for DNA Climber repairs from 2/3-2/10. Continuing to work with BrownKnows on the Tule Tipi play structure and signage. We will communicate with the public via social media to keep people informed. Clyde Coffee anticipates being able to stay open.

Slaven worked with Dick Anderson Construction to make some small repairs in the building while they had a slow week.

The Friends funded a staff/AUOR party.

Slaven participated in a Women in Leadership panel at the Food Bank today.

Megan applauded Slaven for working with Theresa Williams to get the MSW intern here. Slaven thanked Peter for working on this project as well.

Citizen Comments: None.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Elizabeth shared that the library can piggyback on a county contract with Multilingual Technologies to provide on-demand and programmatic translation and interpretation services. Includes ASL and a vast array of languages. The Programming Committee will do some publicity and outreach to let the public know.

Elizabeth shared stats of interest to the board. She and Robert cleaned up the data to make it make more sense (for example adding cost per use for databases) and align it with the data we have to report to the state every year. The board was pleased and impressed.

Slaven is attending MLA in Bozeman in March during the regularly scheduled March meeting.

Action Item: Slaven will put the ED review on the next board agenda.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Policy Manual Update

Julie presented the collection development policy and asked that the board read and be prepared to vote on approving the policy in February.

Katy attended the sewing and mending workshop in December and was impressed with the service and particularly interaction with kids to help them learn how to make repairs! Katy was very complementary of Annie, who ran the program.

Megan went to a Living with the Land talk put on by Humanities Montana and learned a lot about all kinds of holistic information about plants, animals, moon cycles. Xavier arranged the program and Megan

was very complementary.

Citizen Comments: None.


6. SHARED TRAINING

No board training this month.

Adjourned at 6:58 pm.

**Next meeting will take place at the Missoula Public Library and online:
February 26, 2025.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Slaven Lee, Director	Date
	January 23, 2025
Julie Edwards, Co-Chair of the Trustees	Date