

WASHINGTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Library Board was held June 7, 2023, 3:00 PM
Washington Branch Library, 220 N. 300 E. Washington, UT 84780

Board members present:

Victor Iverson	County Commissioner
Wendy Neilson	Board Chair
Kassie Pitts	Board Vice-Chair
Michele Mitchell	Board Member
Dan McGuire	Board Member
Kelly Atkin	Board Member
Dana Moyle	Board Member

Also present:

Victoria Hales	Deputy Washington County Attorney
Alan Anderson	Interim Library Director
Tracie Madsen	Administrative Assistant

Board Members Not Present:

Darin Larson	Board Member
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CALL TO ORDER

Wendy Neilson welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of agenda
- b. Review and approve minutes from April 5, 2023
- c. Next meeting date and location – August 2, 2023 New Harmony Branch

MOTION: Dan McGuire made a motion to approve the consent agenda and previous meeting minutes, along with next meeting date and location.

Seconded: Victor Iverson

Vote was taken: All voted “aye”.

MOTION PASSED

2. CELEBRATIONS

Amanda Gardner was introduced as the new Washington Branch Manager. She shared with the board her educational and work experience.

Alan acknowledged the many great employees working for the library system. He also celebrated having the hydroponic gardens up and going with vegetables growing.

3. BUDGET

Susan Lewis retired and Ryan Sullivan was sworn in as the new County Clerk/Auditor. Ryan forwarded the budget report as of the end of April.

Alan highlighted budget lines exceeding 45%.

Office Supplies in Hurricane, Washington, Hildale – toner purchases
Postage in St. George and Washington – Sending back Book Buzz
Utilities in Enterprise and Hildale – Colder than usual winter
Donation Expense in Hurricane, Enterprise – Donations received 2022 and spent 2023

4. LIBBY

Alan explained Libby's role in the library system. Overdrive is the bigger platform and Libby is the app. The library system is on a state consortium contract with Libby, under the Utah State Library. 50% of state grant funds are spent by Washington County Library Selectors and 50% are spent by the state library. Also included are additional funds budgeted for electronic resources. Washington County residents have first dibs on content purchased by Wash. Co. library system before it released to the state consortium.

The library system has little control over the larger collection of Libby content. But online book streaming is the area of highest growth and needs to be supported.

A board member expressed concerns about the subject matter of many of the new June release books in the Young Adult area of Libby.

There are no ratings on YA (young adult) books. Ways for concerned parents to place restrictions on YA usage, similar to how it is done inside library branches, were discussed. Educating library patrons on use of settings and filters within Libby along with having access level card restrictions was talked about. The library system's goal is to remain neutral on issues.

Alan explained that electronic content is wildly expensive compared to print material. For example, a \$30 book purchase could be compared to \$130 for a digital copy. In addition, check-out times and uses have expiration limits. Dan expressed concern in regards to these high costs.

Dan asked if prisoners at the jail have access to Libby. Victor said the Sheriff is moving away from hard copy books and going to tablets at the jail. Alan explained in some settings individuals cannot get library cards. Some institutions in town that have institutional cards; such as Chrysalis and Danville.

5. STAFF CHANGES

The library system has gone through some turn-around in the past few months. The following changes were talked about.

New custodians in St. George (Sage Talbot) and Hurricane (Moriah Dutton). Amy Park, St. George Reference Librarian resigned and was replaced by Miranda Gentry. Makenzee Clements graduated college and moved. Her replacement was Kristin Marshall. Susan Jensen from New Harmony got married and was replaced by Edith Whitehead. Anna Weyher, Springdale Branch Manager resigned to focus on writing her PhD dissertation. Emily Jurgensmeier will replace her. Emily has been a St. George Supervisor with a lot of experience.

The opening for a St. George Librarian Supervisor has been posted.

Dan asked Commissioner Iverson about the timing for finalizing the Library Director and St. George Branch Manager positions. Commissioner Iverson explained the situation with Jonathan Liddle going active-duty Navy and the county's responsibility to him for the new five years. He let the board know that action will be taken to resolve the status of library positions soon.

6. LIBRARY BOARD CHANGES

Michele Mitchel reached the end of her two terms with the library board. This was Michele's final board meeting. A card was sent around that board members signed, along with a thank-you gift given.

A new board member will not be added in replacement of Michele. The library board will go back to a seven-member board as has been the traditional number.

Darin Larson finished out Rob Goulding's term and was re-appointed by the County Commission with his first four-year term beginning June 30, 2023.

7. SUMMER READING

Up-to-date statistics for Summer Reading sign-ups were shared. Sign-ups have only been available for one week and 1,682 children, 341 teens, and 289 adults have already registered on ReadSquared.

A lot of time and money is invested into the library's Summer Reading programs. The goal is children continue to read through the summer.

Branch prizes have been acquired such as certificates to local restaurants, trinkets, scooters and bikes. There will also be a drawing among finishers in each group for system-wide gift cards.

Michelle Clements put together a power-point presentation that included pictures from last year's Summer Reading along with some statistics. In 2022, 3,600 registered and 1,326 finished the Summer Reading Program.

Read-down-your-fines program will be available for children to read in the library in exchange for fines on children's material. This does not include lost or damaged fines; only late fines.

All Together Now is the national theme for Summer Reading this year.

8. COPY MACHINES

New copy machines are in place throughout the library system. A new copy machine contract with DEX Imaging was approved by the Commission last month and copiers were installed two weeks ago.

Newly purchased machines were placed at New Harmony, Enterprise and Springdale branches. Older copy machines from those branches were moved to Santa Clara and St. George branches to replace worn out machines.

9. POLICY ITEMS

A Library Use & Solicitation Policy was drafted and reviewed by the County Attorney's office. The board read through the policy and discussed simple revisions to be made. Some sentences were re-worded with maps yet to be drafted.

The policy addresses locations where first amendment rights can be expressed inside and outside library branches and the guidelines to go along with use in those described zones.

The board voted on adopting the policy with discussed changes and added maps.

MOTION: Victor Iverson made a motion to accept the Library Use & Solicitation Policy with discussed changes and added maps.

Seconded: Dana Moyle

Vote was taken: All voted "aye".

MOTION PASSED

The Utah State Legislature passed a law which requires background checks for employees who work with children. The board discussed which type of background check; which staff members should be included; and the potential financial impact to the library system.

Commissioner Iverson would like the background checks to cover a broad base of employees, unless the cost proves to be astronomical.

The policy does not need to be in effect until mid-2024.

MOTION: Dan McGuire made a motion to adjourn Library Board Meeting at 5:00 pm.

Seconded: Michele Mitchell

Vote was taken: All voted “aye”.

MOTION PASSED