

Billings Public Library
June 13, 2019
12:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Vice Chair Jennifer Quinn, Sue Bach, David Darby, Cheryle Fisher, Stella Fong, Bill Lamdin, Peggy McSweyn, Lloyd Mickelson, Gavin Woltjer, Library Director; Kathy Robins, Information Systems Coordinator. Guests: Clare Young, Friends of the Library; P.J. Smith, Genealogy Forum; Leslie Modrow, Foundation Director

Public Comment

None.

Chair's comments

Quinn suggested that members think about topics for the retreat. Be mindful of budget constraints for ideas and if the idea will appeal to the community. The agenda will be determined at the August board meeting. Consider the Strategic Plan and the three associated goals:

1. Make access happen
2. Connect with patrons, partners and professionals
3. Build our future

In the next 3 years, many board members and library staff will term out or retire, resulting in a loss of institutional knowledge. Think about opportunities ahead. Civil Conversations may be an area that the Board can focus on.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Approve minutes.

Approved

Mickelson/Lambdin

BPL Overview

Woltjer reported that:

- Two seasonal workers and three VISTAs are here helping with summer reading.
- Librarian Cindy Patterson to retire on August 30 after 26 years in Children's unit.
- There is another vacancy in Children's that will be filled in July.
- Woltjer is president-elect of MLA
- New programs:

- 1,000 books before kindergarten starting in September
- State Park backpacks from Montana State Library for checkout
- Economic and workforce development program and partnerships
- Woltjer will be a grant reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities
- Woltjer presented a program on geology at This House of Books
- Woltjer will be at an MLA meeting and help facilitate the MSL Summer Library Leadership Institute. Back on June 24.

Robins reported that:

- Robins will attend the National Library of Medicine Conference “Partners in Health Summit” in Washington, DC
- Library is re-doing the website and would like Board input. Passed out survey questions.
- The City has a technology replacement plan that the Library follows. Technology is replaced on a regular basis and allows us to anticipate budget needs.
- ASPeN is the Montana State Library Directory. First sign up for ePass access and then ASPeN to record continuing education. Passed out instructions.

Board Retreat

Fong reported that Karen Grosz of Canvas Creek Team Building will facilitate the retreat. Fee is \$500 that the Library will fund. Date: September 12 from 7:30-11:30 am. Mickelson will check room availability at MSU-B. Retreat planning group will meet on July 12 at 9am. Members: Clare Young, Leslie Modrow, Stella Fong, PJ Smith, Roger Young, Jennifer Quinn, and David Darby. Report plans at the August Board meeting.

Food For Thought and Royal Johnson Forum

Modrow reported that:

1. Food for Thought was sold out in 10 days and had a waiting list. Thank you to the Library, Stella Fong, Crowley Law Firm and Friends of the Library. Several board members attended. Raised \$3,000 for the special project (1,000 Books before Kindergarten). Total raised was \$40,000.
2. The Royal Johnson Forum will be on July 25. The purpose of money raised is to endow the Royal Johnson forum. It will feature Russia experts:
 - a. Nicholas Daniloff, journalist, author and instructor at Northeastern University
 - b. Matthew Rojansky, Director of the Wilson Center Kennan Institute

Events:

- a. Luncheon at library - \$50 – 100 tickets
- b. Private reception at MSU-B – \$100 - 60 tickets
- c. Community event – free – 600 seats at MSU-B Petro Theater

City Budget

Woltjer explained that the City has a dedicated reserve. However, expenditures are climbing to be more than revenues. To rectify, each department came up with cut proposals. There will be no layoffs in library. The Interlocal Agreement provides the Library with a strong position for funding. Woltjer anticipates no discontinuation of programs. BPL will receive \$50,000 in State aid that was cut 2 years ago. City Council may ask for a public safety mill levy.

July Board Meeting

MOTION: Quinn asked for a motion to skip the July regular meeting.

Approved

Darby/Lambdin

Adjourned at 12:55 pm