

Tillamook County Library Board Minutes
Thursday, February 16, 2023; 12:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting

Board Members Present:

Tim Jossi, Jennifer Byrne, Madeline Olson, Jon Orloff, Nan Devlin

Staff, Commissioner, and Others Present:

Don Allgeier, Jennifer Wells, Mary Faith Bell, Marisa Graham-Collier, Penny Hummel

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Tim Jossi at 11:09 a.m.

Public Input

There were no public comments.

Approval of December 2022 Minutes and Budget:

Meeting minutes for the January 19, 2023 Board Meeting of the Tillamook County Library Advisory Board were approved.

Don reviewed the budget in terms of where we are and expect to be. Budget and spending approved by the board.

Foundation Update:

Tillamook County Library Foundation- Jon reviewed the Chautauqua series planned for July-September.

Director's Report: Don Allgeier

- We have several ongoing recruitments: We are still in process with interviewing for a new manager for Tillamook Main. We are opening a new recruitment for LA2 at Bay City as the last recruitment was unsuccessful. We will be posting for a new part time LA1 as we have promoted Luke to LA3 for the Bookmobile.
- Children's Library- New paint is still moving forward for the end of February.
- Don is starting to look at budget prep for the coming fiscal year and will prepare a presentation and send out a poll for the meeting in March to get feedback.
- Niche Academy training is being rolled out to staff for supplemental training.
- Patron Point: We are adopting use of this software which allows us to update and personalize our newsletters and set people up virtually for library cards with postcards to verify addresses within the county. We are expecting this to provide a better dashboard for all library functions.

Data Dashboard: *We did see a dip in Patron visits in the month of December that Don does not have comprehensive understanding, though some factors could be that we had less story times along with a fair number of closure dates. We are investigating this further.*

We added Notary Appointments to the document which has demonstrated a surprising amount of completed notary appointments and we look forward to tracking.

Business Items:

- Library Services in South County- The foundation board is interested in evaluating funding for extending services in south county once the library stage at Main is completed. There appears to be interest in Hebo which is a community in dire need of library services and we could have great positive impact there. We will aim to meet with community members to develop relationships there that could reveal community champions for the library as well as communicate value back and forth between community and library administration. There will be staffing challenges to consider and perhaps a library kiosk will be a good starting point. It is decided that this will take higher priority after strategic planning completes. In the meantime Nan will reach out to contacts to gauge interest.
- Meeting Room Policy Update- The outdoor library stage is moving along and necessitates an update for Community Room guidelines to include the stage. At this time we will review and update policy regarding the community meeting spaces to improve clarity for when requests are approved/denied. Madeline and Jon will work with Don to work on this.

Strategic Planning

- Process moving along. At this time, we have held 2 of 3 staff sessions, which have been fruitful. Upcoming meetings for the public are scheduled. Outreach to seniors and targeted communities is in process.
- Expect More:
- Next month's discussion is going to involve the reading Expect More.
- Jon notes that Expect More focuses on serving a larger community. States in this part of the world we need more focus on preparedness for disaster. This might be a useful topic for each branch to have information. Penny agrees and states that Get Ready!: how to prepare for and stay safe after a Pacific Northwest earthquake by Deb Moller is a great book regarding this.

SOAR Exercise: Positive model to focus vision and planning.

Strengths:

- Our Friends of Libraries Groups.

- Passage of levies to ensure we still have our libraries. Support was weakest at southern part of county so perhaps we should see what we can provide them ensuring that they see value.
- Staff/Librarians are phenomenal at what we do.
- We have an excellent library system, having our many branches and bookmobile ensures we have a wide reach within community.
- Facilities: Beautiful buildings.
- County-wide system: we service a great deal of the county through our six branches and the bookmobile. We are on track with what larger library systems offer in terms of programming, collections, and services despite our small size.
- Library of Things is very important and the more we can invest in it the better.
- We display a high level of responsiveness to community needs has been met quickly. Ability to recognize where we can fill a need in the community is one of our greatest strengths. An example is that during COVID, even though we were closed we provided services geared toward being helpful for both parents and students.
- Sharing of materials with Newport and Lincoln City; allowing for an expanded collection without a large financial output.
- Garibaldi community reaches out a lot about how wonderfully we provide for families.
- Focusing on expanding programs to branches has been very important.
- Public Art Displays

Opportunities: What are best areas to add value and benefits.

- We will be expanding programming, public event, and lecture opportunities with the completion of the stage in the garden.
- Emergency Preparedness- Partner and collaboration with established emergency services groups.
- Providing new tech (ex: 3D printer).
- Increase outreach to Spanish speaking community.
- Strengthen staff retention and development.
- Programs specifically designed for seniors-Loneliness amongst seniors is a prevalent and significant issue.
- Programs to bring the community together- Largely, seniors and millennials are known to be struggling with loneliness issues. The library programs could help alleviate this while breaking boundaries between community members to bring people together.

Challenges to the opportunities:

- Book challenges- how do we bring members of our community together to have conversations amongst those that hold differing viewpoints? How do we build trust

through fun activities that allow people to see each other as humans rather than their place in the political spectrum.

Aspirations- what are our hopes and dreams?

- More programming for seniors.
- Chautauqua Series- speakers and scholars' series.
- Branches to become more of a community hub- think of library for first place to touch base about community as well as reading and seeking knowledge.
- Increase collaboration with community partners.
- Facilities- utilize partnership between friends' leadership and library board.
 - There is potential for an expansion in Manzanita.
 - BC/GA/RK- currently size of small express library but we treat as a larger library. We need to think about how those spaces are inviting and what collection does for people. Lucky day in all branches could help but need to think about the trade-offs there. Spaces that small being everything to everyone might not be working well. Thoughtful curation could be refined. Individualizing each location to meet their specific needs has room for improvement.
- How do we engage more with south county? Pacific City and the Bookmobile could use additional support. It is more rural than north county, so careful evaluation of the needs held by people living there will be necessary. Could we investigate mail order services or a second Bookmobile?
- Staffing- We would like to see more cross training and staff retention.
- Design outreach more intentionally- Engage in outreach that is spread more equitably around the county and more focused on specific needs of each area.

Results- how do we measure our success with reaching goals?

- Annual survey and bond levy success.
- After events we can offer a survey.
- Engage in communications with public re: services. We need to do more outreach, especially to Spanish speaking communities.
- Building the volunteer base is a great area of opportunity that we will tap into this year.
- Staffing stability.
- Collection: print has good flow, but our electronic options are limited. Will need to see what we can expand without going over budget.

- Technology- currently no more than 50% of our computers are in use at any given time. We will look to see this increase. It is worth looking into having at least one Mac for programs that can't be run on PC.
- Programming in Spanish.
- Facilities- We have opportunities to address unused computers, the reference section, and Law library.
- Social work- Unhoused people are a part of our library community. Peter at CARE has mentioned arranging some space and time to have social workers at the library to meet with people in need of their aid. Can we partner with other service providers? Tillamook County mental health and addiction services will be worth looking into, in an effort to help stabilize and support.
- We need to make sure we chose sustainable and achievable planning. Don't take on too much so that can set up for success.

Expect More: Demanding Better Libraries for Today's Complex World by David Lankes

- There are elements of this book that will not apply to our smaller system. We will use this to see what we can utilize and adjust to fit our system.
- COVID has changed perspective on social gatherings- second article addresses social changes with this that could apply to our facilities and programming uses. Read this book with these changes in mind.

IN closing, Penny would like to share that our percentage of community satisfaction is very high compared to other systems Penny has done evaluations for; now we get to build on that which is a great place to be.

New "Our Vision" 2023 brochures available in Dons office.

Meeting called to end at 1:01pm