

Tillamook County Library Board Minutes
Thursday, September 15, 2022; 12:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting

Board Members Present:

Jon Orloff, Madeline Olson, Sayde Walker, Betsy Chase, Tim Josi, Nan Devlin

Staff, Commissioner, and Others Present:

Don Allgeier, Mary Faith Bell, Marisa Graham-Collier

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Sayde Walker at 12:03 p.m.

Sayde welcomed Nan Devlin to her first official Library Advisory Board meeting.

Public Input

There were no public comments.

Approval of August 2022 Minutes and Budget:

Betsy Chase had a request to edit meeting minutes for clarification regarding last month's notes on Strategic Planning. The edit was discussed and agreed upon. John Orloff moved to approve the minutes from the August 2022 meeting of the Tillamook County Library Advisory Board. Madeline Olson seconded. All were in favor; the motion carried.

Don reviewed the budget in terms of where we are and expect to be. States that we are:

- **Underbudget** in Total Salaries, Taxes and Benefits, and Personnel costs due to vacancies that we are still working to fill, though we are making headway.
- We are **on target** for Contracted Services; however, we are likely to end up overbudget due to increased need for digital materials budget and recent adjustments to GL coding.
- **Overbudget:** Library Materials, Library Programs, and Materials and Services due to heavy spending at the beginning of the fiscal year and Summer Reading Programing, however that will level out moving forward. Capital outlay expenses appear to be well under budget, but the expenses for these projects are anticipated in the coming months.
**The new GL accounts that are being created and utilized are not reflected in these numbers and we will likely start to see them show up in reports for next month.*

Sayde Walker moved to approve the budget and financial reports as presented for the August 2022 meeting as presented. Jon Orloff carried the motion and Madeline Olson seconded; the motion carried.

Director's Report: Don Allgeier

- Update on Branch Manager position – Jennifer Wells has been hired as the manager of TCL Branches with a target start in October pending her ability to secure housing as she is relocating from Tulsa OK. She brings experience in a variety of positions within the library ranging from shelving books to holding a directorship in a small library system, and has experience with adult literacy, outreach, programming, and volunteer management. She has a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Oklahoma.
- Marisa Graham-Collier has been hired to replace Jordan Wolfe as an LA3, effective September 1, 2022.
- Building and Grounds: Community members have expressed that the extended hours on Saturday are appreciated, and our transition seems to be going well.

- **Community Engagement:** Our presence at the County Fair provided ample opportunity to connect with the community, especially with our new management team getting face to face interaction with the public.

The Bay City and Garibaldi Branches each held a very successful Firefighter Storytime. Roughly 70 people attended in Bay City.

- **Children’s Library:** We have made some changes to the layout that we think will make a better use of the space within the children's library. The reference desk previously located in the center of the room yet widely unused has been removed and replaced with a smaller desk on the north wall of the room. We are in the process of ordering new seating for children, freshening the paint, and eventually will be updating and shifting the puppet theater.
- **Intellectual Freedom:** Don states we are looking for additional expertise moving forward, following Clearinghouse reports of materials challenges. Materials challenges in the form of concentrated movements from national groups, commonly organized through social media such as Facebook, challenging materials and becoming disruptive with boards is more concerning than individual materials challenges. There is a presence of these groups in Oregon, though they do not appear to be present in Tillamook County. Jon Orloff discussed that concerns originating within the educational system under the guise that parents should have input in materials made available to children which are then elevated to the public library, which in turn sheds the focus from children and developing into censorship. He cites the example of Critical Race Theory which has been widely challenged in schools.

Mary Faith Bell noted that she had seen some challenges tied to the Levy voted on earlier this year but since the Levy was passed attention to challenges seem to have been diverted.

Staff has noticed some ‘soft challenges’ in the form of hidden, stolen, or vandalized materials though this appears to be rare and carried out by individual persons rather than by a group.

Betsy Chase states indicated as a library we should focus on American history by being an information source, without censorship.

Jon Orloff mentioned that as Americans, despite issues throughout our history, we can be proud of the fact that a significant part of the population lost their lives fighting against slavery, for changing our founding documents through the 13th and 14th amendments to the Constitution, and that while there is still a lot of ground to cover, we are able to improve things over time. He suggests that we should investigate some Chautauqua programming to Tillamook County.

Strategic Planning:

- **Penny Hummel:** We have reached out to develop our strategic plan and perform a community survey. She will be attending next months board meeting where she will bring a draft of her Community Survey to review and discuss analysis of Levy voting. This will be for planning now through spring of 2023 at which time we will adopt a new plan. Next month’s meeting is scheduled for 2 hours to accommodate this presentation and discussion.
- We have a team of staff members reviewing and updating our Policy and Procedures Policy which we anticipate will be brought to the board for approval.

Business Items:

- The board welcomes Nan Devlin to her first meeting as a board member who will be officially appointed on Wednesday September 21, 2022.
- Jon Orloff does not have anything to report from the last Library Foundation meeting.
- The Library Board is invited to attend an October 13, 2022, meeting hosted by the Library Foundation with the Friends of Library groups who will have representatives from throughout Tillamook County.

This meeting is to develop working well together as an informal get to know you and will take place from 8am-10am at the Tillamook Main Library.

Mary Faith Bell:

- Mary Faith Bell has been in communication with TCL Main Manager Wendy Stout regarding future uses of the park to outline how the space may be used, specifically in relation to whether groups hosting events there would be permitted to serve alcohol. These talks are ongoing.
- The foundation for the stage in the new park space has been built and we are happy with progress.
- MFB received a compliment from a community member about their interaction with manager Wendy Stout regarding music and programming.
- The county seems to be in a good place with COVID-19 as cases and transmission rates seem to be decreasing, though she does encourage everyone to get flu shots and the new COVID-19 booster which is now available.
- Betsy Chase asks about funding for Broadband infrastructure coming to Tillamook County. MFB states we have new funding for jetty repairs that have been needed for approximately 20 years, however she is not the broadband point person so she will get a report to bring to next months meeting. Don Allgeier informed that the library has ordered more hot spots to lend out to our patrons.

Future Meeting:

The October 20, 2022, meeting will be a hybrid meeting, with some of us meeting in person, but with an online option to join in.

Adjournment: Sayde Walker adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes Completed by Marisa Graham-Collier