

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **North Valley Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting**

208 Main Street, Stevensville, MT 59870 in the Community Room

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 3pm

**Meetings are open to the public**

#### ***Agenda***

- Call to Order/Roll Call
- Public Comment<sup>1</sup>
- Guests
- Approval of Minutes
- Finances
  - ❖ Statement of Revenue – Budget vs. Actual
  - ❖ Statement of Expenditure – Budget vs. Actual
  - ❖ Cash Report
- New Business
  - ❖ Budget & budget schedule
  - ❖ Update Library Card, Circulation & Patron Policy to circulate hotspots for 7 days and have \$1.00 overdue fee.
  - ❖ Foundation wish list
  - ❖ Director's hours
- Ongoing & Unfinished Business
  - ❖ COVID-19 reopening plans
  - ❖ Building plans & discussion
    - Weeds at back of library
    - Commercial Broker looks at library Community Room & Makerspace and may approach with an offer
- Public Comment
- Board/Director Announcements & Comments
  - ❖ Personnel news
- Adjournment

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<sup>1</sup> If you are a member of the public and are unable to attend the Board meetings, the Board would still like to hear from you. Please email the Director at [denisea@northvalleylibrary.org](mailto:denisea@northvalleylibrary.org) or you can email board members directly. A link to Trustee contact information can be found on our website at [northvalleylibrary.org/board—information](http://northvalleylibrary.org/board—information).

**North Valley Public Library**  
Minutes Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 3 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Victoria Howell, Chair

Leon Theroux

Caitlin Dunn, Vice Chair

Kim Tiplady

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT** Dianne Snedigar

**STAFF PRESENT** Denise Ard, Director

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Three members of the public were at the meeting. Terri Lackey, 517 South Sunset Bench, started her comments by saying that Board meetings should be held in the evening rather than the afternoon so that more working people could attend. She spoke against the board's policy requiring face coverings of staff and patrons. A copy of her written comments and arguments against the policy are in the appendix of these minutes. See Appendix A. After her comments she and one other member of the public left.

**GUESTS** No guests.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Leon made a motion to approve the minutes from May 2020 and Kim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCES** eRate has not responded about a refund from July 2019 so the library may not get that anticipated revenue. Caitlin made a motion to approve the May financial reports and Kim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Budget & Budget Schedule***

New copier, 10 hotspots, and library cell phone will be added to next fiscal year budget. Bitterroot Public Library offers Roku to their patrons. The cost of the Roku is \$30. Netflix subscription \$16 per month or \$192 a year and Hulu Basic \$6 a month or \$72 a year for total of \$294 per device. The NVPL Board decided not to offer Roku at this time. Many NVPL patrons are without internet and those that have it may already have streaming subscriptions.

***Update Library Card, Circulation & Patron Policy to circulate hotspots for 7 days and have \$1.00 overdue fee.***

Kim made a motion to update the Library Card, Circulation & Patron Policy to circulate hotspots for 7 days and have \$1.00 per day overdue fee and Caitlin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

***Foundation wish list***

Leon would like to hear from the staff regarding items on the wish list. Denise said she was interested in Nancy Bevins arranging an adult talk show event for the library a few times a year, after Covid vaccine or dies down, which would require lighting or filming equipment.

***Director's Hours***

Denise requested to drop her hours from 40 hours a week to 38 hours a week. She said it would save

the library a little money. Leon said to him it was a big issue and made him uncomfortable. Denise said she would not cut the hours before the new administrative employee who is replacing Daniel is trained and would continue to work 40 or over 40 if required by deadlines on occasion, but then would take the time over 38 hrs as straight comp time a different week. Kim made a motion to change Denise's hours to 38 per week starting September 1. Denise said the date the new employee was starting was not set so better to have it one month after the new employee starts. Kim amended her motion to say Denise's hours would be reduced to 38 one month after the Library Manager starts working. Caitlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **ONGOING & UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### ***COVID-19 reopening plans***

The board asked Denise how the public were responding to the Covid restrictions. Denise said we have some complaints about masks but some other people like it and thank us for requiring them.

The board discussed current Covid restrictions and which ones should be changed.

Victoria asked if there was any public comment. Adam Baker said he doesn't think we should require masks. He said he likes the different options like curbside service but strongly disagrees with the mask requirements and asked how the board came to this decision. Victoria said the Board made the policy to wear face coverings in the library based on the recommendations of the Ravalli County Public Health Department, the Office of the Governor, and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. He asked why the Board did not vote on the changes. The board then voted on the changes.

Caitlin made a motion to retain and update the Covid restrictions as discussed and Kim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Phase 2 June 17 Board decisions**

These Covid restrictions remain the same:

- Face coverings are REQUIRED by staff and patrons to use the Library.
- Curbside service still available.
- 6' social distancing still needs to be maintained by staff and patrons.
- Extra cleaning and hand cleaning continues.
- Staff continue to take their temperature and make sure they are not sick before coming to work.
- No seating for reading and lingering.
- Computer appointments for 1 hr. appointments 6' apart for 4 patrons.
- Community Room is open to Town Council but closed to other outside groups.
- Patrons that are coughing or sneezing will be asked to leave.

These are updated to the Covid restrictions:

- Patrons can come in to browse without an appointment.
- Library teen program hosted by Teen Specialist Emily and adult programs hosted by Adult Specialist Nancy Bevins are allowed to take place in person as long as 6' distance is maintained. Since children have a harder time maintaining 6' separation, those programs won't be taking place in person yet.
- The Town is approved to have the Community Room every Thursday in July 7:00-9:00 pm. Daniel will enter on our calendars (online and print)
- One children's computer will be on with a chair and available.

***Building plans & discussion:***

***Weeds***

Denise said every year the weeds at the back of the library get out of control. Leon recommends spraying the weeds down early next year. Victoria will ask the mayor if he knows of anyone who can do this.

***Planter***

Denise said the planter has still not been removed after many years and what would the board like to do. Denise will email Dianne and ask her to check with Ed Sutherlin if he still intends to do it. If not, then Denise will ask the Foundation to add to the Foundation wish list.

***Commercial Broker***

Katie Ward has some clients that may be interested in renting the library Community Room & Makerspace and may approach with an offer that would be worthwhile to the library but there were no updates at the time of the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Victoria welcomed public comment again. Adam Baker said the Library should take a poll on those that like and dislike the mask requirement.

**BOARD/DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMENTS**

- Scharyn applied for the part-time Library Assistant position so will be taking more hours.
- Foundation has Golf Tournament fundraiser scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Kim motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:47. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes by Caitlin Dunn and Denise Ard

## Library Meeting June 17, 2020

Many more people would have been here today if your meetings were not in the middle of the afternoon when they are at work.

THIS IS A REMINDER: This is a **public library** in a **public building**....Paid for by the tax payers of Ravalli County!

This board has enacted severe restrictions to access of this public facility. You have locked the public out for a significant amount of time starting in March and even now, though the chance of NOT CATCHING this virus is 99.99953%. But still, you treat the general public as diseased, with continuing restrictions and demands of conduct disrespectful and in violation of the rights of the citizens. Requiring the public to social distance is against our 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Right to peaceably assemble.

We suggest if you have that much fear and disdain for the public that you want to restrict their actions, access to this facility and your contact with them; you and the employees should pursue board positions and employment outside the public arena.

We also would like the board to clarify your medical qualifications and those of the library employees to diagnose illness from mere observation and how you determine presumptuously that someone is harboring a communicable disease? You state in your guidelines that you will require a person to leave after your diagnosis. Your rules, guidelines and actions are unacceptable and if we get down to it – ILLEGAL!

As the taxpayers and citizens of Ravalli County we demand open and full access to OUR library starting tomorrow. If this does not happen, a letter will be sent to the Ravalli County Commissioners.

Taxpayers of Ravalli County