

PUBLIC NOTICE

North Valley Public Library Board of Trustees SPECIAL Board Meeting

208 Main Street, Stevensville, MT 59870

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 6pm

Meetings are open to the public.

In person in the Community Room AND by Zoom

Agenda

- Call to Order/Roll Call
- Public Comment¹
- Business
 - ❖ This meeting will be an exploratory discussion with the consulting team ReThinking Libraries. Topics discussed will be the community's needs as it relates to the library's future facility's needs. In addition to discussing the key community needs, national and local trends in public library facilities and services will be discussed in terms of their relevance to the Stevensville area. No choices are being made, but instead just the collection of input and viewpoints of the library's board and foundation board. Community discussion sessions will be held at a later date reviewing the same information, ideas, trends, and discussion points.
- Public Comment
- Adjournment

To Join by Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87024476968?pwd=aElBczY5ZzZBVepHODYva2hWUDFIZz09>

Meeting ID: 870 2447 6968

Passcode: 841469

One tap mobile

+17193594580,,87024476968#,,,,*841469# US

+12532158782,,87024476968#,,,,*841469# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 870 2447 6968

Passcode: 841469

¹ 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 or you can email board members directly. A link to Trustee contact information can be found on our website at northvalleylibrary.org/board—information.

MINUTES

North Valley Public Library

Minutes Board of Trustees SPECIAL Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 6pm

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Victoria Howell called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Victoria Howell, Chair

Caitlin Dunn, Vice Chair

Kim Tiplady

Leon Theroux

Dianne Snedigar by Zoom

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT None

STAFF PRESENT Denise Ard, Director

PUBLIC COMMENT There was no public comment.

GUESTS

Carla Sanders, North Valley Public Library Foundation

Donna Bainbridge, North Valley Public Library Foundation by Zoom

Amy Horlacher, North Valley Public Library Foundation by Zoom

BUSINESS

Rob Cullin and Janet Nelson of Rethinking Libraries started a group discussion asking the following questions and recorded the answers of the Library Board, Director and North Public Library Foundation:

Stevensville Community—What do we need to know?

- Depends on the person as to whether Lone Rock is considered a separate community
- Some see it as two distinct communities—is all the same zip code
- Community is mostly white Caucasian but a lot of difference in income levels
- Have not really encountered anyone who does not speak English
- Some really old generational farmers and ranchers, many have moved in since Covid
- Thinking of Stevensville as the Town is limiting—larger community doesn't live in the Town
- Fairly high poverty rate—especially in the Town
- Very conservative community—maybe 30% more liberal
- Seeing some of the population boom that other parts of Montana have experienced
- Know as the banana belt of Montana—people who can afford to move here do
- Yellowstone has been filmed in the valley
- People are more traditional—many who visit library in Missoula don't want a building like that—it's too modern—like old-fashioned feel and small town feel of been greeted at the front door
- Oldest community in MT

- Community using the library—many people don't have internet and computer skills, amazing how many don't have access and know computers, still people who are more or less off-grid
- Door count still a little low but improving—pre Covid 200 on a Monday, had dropped to 50 but this week was 150

What does community want/need from the Library?

- Would like to look at accessibility on a broader level—not just ADA—cognitive issues, sensory issues, vision issues, strollers, etc.

Entrance Experience & Parking

- Want to see a person right away and get assistance
- Don't like current set-up from a workflow standpoint—would like to see desk workers spaced out so they chat less
- Nice if could shelve and still know that someone entered the building
- Like shorter stacks and immediate displays for new materials
- Current complaints, whatever design needs to be clean, inviting, have space to move around and not be crowded, more accessible for people with mobility issues—complaints about the carpet, etc.
- Good signage to cut down on people needing direction—Barnes and Noble is really clear

Technology and Power

- Community using the library—many people don't have internet and computer skills, many don't have access and know computers, some people choose to live mostly off-grid
- Older patrons may get technology gifts from family and need help to use
- At this point not seeing patrons preferring laptops—building needs to be flexible to allow for change over time
- Have some laptops to check out but people don't check out as often as you would think—when they do check out hotspots and laptops get calls for assistance
- Using desktops because faster and also kids want to play games
- New building in 5 years still will likely have fixed PC stations
- People who do want to use laptops generally bring their own

Quiet Space vs. Active Space

- Current library doesn't really have a quiet space—have tried to make the back area of the library quiet but still isn't well addressed
- Would like to be able to position spaces better

Outdoor Space

- Have only thought of as outdoor seating space
- Would be nice to be able to do science experiments outside and be able to do some programming—doesn't need to be a playground
- Would be nice to have a patio that is easy to maintain—small space to read outside
- Would be nice to have enclosed courtyard so kids were contained
- Covered by slanted roof so snow could slide off would be great
- Have seen some off of teen area work well

Children's Spaces (0-7)

- Interested in early literacy interactives and play spaces—just got new dinosaurs and animals to play with
- Space is just too small
- Community room almost too barren for small kids
- Play space is currently in the reading space which is awkward

- Want to see improved spaces for kids and teens
- Some patrons like browsers better for picture books, difficult for staff to pull holds so they don't always like

Children's Spaces (8-12)

- Haven't heard from parents in this age group that they want a separate space
- Programming for Tweens is pulled in with Teens
- Tend to go to adult area to use the computers because they don't want to go into the young children's area—think that there needs to be a divider between Tweens and Teens because Teens don't want to be by Tweens

Teen Services and Spaces

- Would hope to have an enclosed teen space that would allow them to be louder without disturbing others
- Concern with bullying—like to be able to see what's going on and that people are working well together—can't always be in the space all of the time due to staffing limitations
- Teen behavior can get out of hand if unsupervised and out of sight

Program & Meeting Spaces

- Small phone booth type spaces have seen in other spaces
- Multiple smaller spaces would be nice
- Ideally would like to have some mid-sized spaces to collaborate in
- Need a larger space that could accommodate a little larger group ideally at least 80-100, would like easy way to bring out a stage, ways to build in flexibility
- Meeting spaces need to be available after hours through a secure entrance—super important to have simple technology available that can't be easily messed up—access to speakers and projectors, etc.
- Will help sell the idea of new space—need more spaces in area to meet

Adult & Seniors

- Adult collection space is the worst part of the building—no reason to stay in the library
- Highest circulation area but use would likely be much better if it was a better space
- May need expanded large print section and audiobooks
- DVDs some libraries don't like the flip through shelves for these materials

Collection Spaces

- Shelving space is currently poor
- Would be nice not to have the collection shelved all the way to the floor

All Ages Comments

-

Physical and Digital Creativity

- Would want some kind of a makerspace—have one now
- Want the space be multi-purpose to have some of the technology aspects as well as creative aspects
- Have seen different types of labs—here interested in woodworking labs and leatherworking—messier and might not be great with the technology equipment in the same space—don't have staff to maintain a big lab currently—think it is important to be able to move to this type of space
- Would love to have storage space to have Library of Things type items—don't want to compete with local businesses but would like some things available

- Current space does not have adequate storage space—move things back and forth between the makerspace and the program room
- Are there makerspaces with a divider wall to split spaces and create flexibility
- Teens already have green screen, have borrowed 3D printer shared between 2 libraries but very basic and can't really do prototyping

Local History and Genealogy

- Have a Montana Room—nothing particularly old in there but people love, especially that have collected MT authors
- Genealogy isn't a very big, local church

Other

- Need big wall space for donor tree
- Would like it so people can't lock themselves in bathrooms for illicit behavior
- Friends of the Library is no more, periodic sales by the Foundation may need workspace/storage space
- Need enough **storage space** and staff workstations—including a little bit of space for Foundation
- Some people haven't wanted to work at the library because staff spaces are poor
- Current staff argument has to do with the drop box—latching it is always an issue—would love not to have workspace with arguments over silly things
- Not enough current staff space—a million things on the circulation desk, need separate staff room to go and get away from work, need enough space and to feel safe
- Have changed doors so people can't get in from the outside but staff can get out
- Director office is not ideally set up to allow for focus and meetings
- What is experience with coffee spaces—Cullin and Nelson reported they are not successful in their opinion.
- Really important to maintain a rustic appeal that fits the community
- Really like idea of meeting rooms where size of the room can be adjusted
- Darby has a fairly new library that has won design awards and has rustic appeal
- Would like the space to flex for the future maybe be able to build a second level—grow in the future
- Current building has cellar with mold issues—would like to not repeat this issue
- Some type of overhang coming into building and floors that handle the weather conditions and not be slippery

ADJOURNMENT Adjourned at 8:00 pm

Minutes by Rob Cullin, Janet Nelson of ReThinking Libraries and Denise E. Ard