

Missoula Public Library
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 16, 2008
6:00 P.M.

ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Chair Neal Leathers

ROLL CALL Members present were: Neal Leathers, Christine Prescott, Beth Antonopulos, Rita Henkel, Brenda Jackson and Honore Bray. John Brown was excused

OTHERS Claire Morton, Asst. Director, Mike Sehestedt, Chief Civil Attorney for Missoula County

MINUTES Minutes of the December 19th meeting were approved as presented
Minutes of the January 3rd meeting were approved as presented
Minutes of the January 9th meeting were approved as amended
The motion was made by Rita Henkel that a dollar sign needs to be added in front of the monetary amounts.
Beth Antonopulos made a motion to accept the minutes of the three meetings with the preceding amendment to the January 9th meeting. Motion carried

CITIZENS COMMENTS
NONE

CLAIMS Discussion took place concerning the county spreadsheet and why the negative balances show in the fringe benefit columns of payroll. The financial office at the county sets the payroll and as long as the bottom line is not a negative figure it is okay.

A question rose concerning the new printer – It is a large color printer that will be used to print maps at patron request. The cost of each print has not been determined. The prints will be 11 X 17.

Christine Prescott made a motion to accept the claims as presented. Motion carried

STATISTICS Claire pointed out that the Interlibrary Loan Statistics have gone back up to normal now that NCIP has been turned off. The dysfunctional program running the NCIP part of Home Delivery was causing our ILL statistics to go down. The decrease in ILL was part of the discussion at an earlier board meeting. It was predicted that once NCIP was turned off the numbers would return.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
In Board Packets

Holiday party on the 27th of January at the Depot at 6:30. Friends of the Library are paying.

Discussion took place concerning the digitization of State Documents and if the library collection would start to purchase digital book content. Once patrons are able to read the digital books they will become part of the collection. The electronic readers for the materials are the expensive part and so far there is little interest from users.

OLD BUSINESS

Frenchtown – The Grand Opening will take place on Tuesday, January 22nd, at 7:00 PM

Neal will cut the ribbon with the Chair of the FT School District. The Friends are paying for the refreshments.

Staff has been helpful in selecting items for the branch and getting everything ready to go. Heather, Steve and Jodi have done a great job putting everything together.

Policy Manual - The policy has been accepted by the State Library and will need to be resubmitted in 2010 for an update.

Discussion took place with Mike Sehestedt concerning the "Library Gallery Exhibition Policy". One of the exhibits was offensive to a user and they were seeking help from the County Attorney's office to have the display removed. The issue for the user was his feeling that the display was political in nature because the group displaying is a political action group.

Mike pointed out potential issues with the current policy. The first being the exclusion of religious groups when they do have non-profit status. The exclusion violates the law because of "view point discrimination" tested in the Lamb's Chapel case.

Second item is to post a sign that states displays are not supported by the viewpoint of the library.

Third, maybe only public entities and established community events should be allowed to use the space.

After a great deal of discussion it was decided to work on an application form to be filled out by the group requesting to use the display. That application form will be given to the Director to approve or in the absence of the Director the Assistant Director would be the responsible person. Using this process the group will need to allow lead time for the approval of the display. No commercial groups will be allowed and items that relate to ballot issues will not be allowed. The Board will work on this policy for the next month. The drafted policy will be sent to Mike for input. Mike pointed out that ultimately the Library Board is responsible for the library policies, not other entities in the county. New policy needs to protect the library from "view point discrimination" because a display case is a limited forum.

Christine Prescott will present Library Board Training on Tuesday, March 11th at 6:00 PM. There will be a potluck at 6:00 and then the training will start. Training will be 1 ½ hours so plan on 2 hours.

Unique Management – Claire gave an update on the collection agency and the decision is to wait till the new budget year. We will budget money for the collection fee and start the 90 day free trial at that time. Flathead is starting the process now so they may have some statistics that can be used in the budgeting process.

Holiday – Some staff members have requested to work the day following Thanksgiving. This is just a heads up because the entire staff needs to be polled before the request will come to the board. The reason for this closure on Easter Sunday was due to low circulation. Staff can use vacation on that day or they can make the eight hours up sometime during the week. This year it was an issue because the Monday before the holiday the library was forced to close because of a power outage. This created a hardship to staff that needed to make up 16 hours of work. More on the subject at the next meeting.

Other Old Business-

Minutes posted on the City Web Site and on the MPL site.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Vice Chair – Beth Antonopulos and Christine Prescott were nominated for the position of Vice Chair. Beth withdrew her name and Christine Prescott was elected as the new Vice Chair.

Other New Business-

Meeting agenda – A hard copy of the agenda will be posted in the library each month

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is February 20th at 6:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Honore D. Bray, Director Date

Board representative: _____
Neal Leathers, Chair Date