Missoula Public Library

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**September 15, 2021**

**6:00**

**ZOOM online meeting**

# Citizen comments are very important to the Library Trustees. Policy states that public comment is limited to three minutes on each agenda item or three minutes at the beginning of the meeting on items not on the agenda.

# ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Chair, Audra Loyal

**ROLL CALL** Members present were: Audra Loyal, Forrest Boughner, Margaret Wafstet, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Carol Wolfe, and Honore Bray. Becky Mosbacher, excused.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Staff members: Elizabeth Jonkel, Will Klaczynski, Amanda Allpress, Leslie Wood, Desiree Funston, Sarah Velk, Jon Tweeten, Ellen Murray, Crystal Kobayashi, Allen Seelye, Bradin Farnsworth, Brian Doyle, Karl Olson.

**Brian West –** County Attorney’s Office, Mark Wetherington – Bitterroot Public Library, Dr. Rachel Severson.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON ANYTHING NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA**

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**Audra Loyal stated that this meeting was called to discuss the issue of Masking in the public library to help reduce the rate of COVID in the Missoula Community. This is the only item on the Agenda.**

Discussion: Honore Bray said that there have been many members of the public asking for masking at the library. Many are elderly people and the other age group is parents of small children. Since the hospitals are asking the community to mask up and since MPL would like to remain opened and continue to do in person programming, masking seems to be a way we could help to continue our mission.

Brian West explained that the Library Trustees have the right to set parameters for their spaces but the Legislature will not allow for trespass due to not wearing a mask. Brian also said that if someone is disorderly or using threatening behavior then they can still be trespassed.

Karl Olson expressed that the library still has signage up and it doesn’t really help. Audra Loyal explained that the signage would be at the doors.

Dr. Rachel Severson stated that the Living Lab is in favor of Masking

Honore Bray stated that Hannah Zuraff told her the Families First Board is in favor of masks.

Security Guards will be required to wear masks also and they will hand masks to the public as they enter the building. If the public choose not to wear them there is nothing we can do about that. Our effort is to help protect the visitors, staff and volunteers who come to the library.

Desiree Funston stated that as the union representative she reached out to members and received concerns from three people who were worried about enforcement.

Crystal Kobayashi stated that she is a vulnerable member of the staff and has a child at home who cannot be vaccinated so she is in favor of masking.

Leslie Wood stated her concern about limited masking but feels consistent signage is good. She also feels the Library is a trusted place in Missoula and the public will appreciate guidance.

Will Klaczynski asked about the trigger to lift the request. Audra Loyal deferred to Brian West who stated 25/100,000 seems to be the common trigger.

Braden Farnsworth asked where masks would be required for staff. Audra Loyal said in public spaces. Braden wondered about Tiny Tales and Audra said yes it would be important during programming. Dr. Rachel Severson stated that she teaches in a mask and it is possible. She also suggested clear masks so kids could see your face.

Will Klaczynski asked about alternative services. Honore explained that after further research the library cannot refuse to allow anyone into the building if they won’t wear a mask so alternate service will not be possible.

Forrest Boughner made a motion that staff and visitors to Missoula Public Library who are five years old or older will be required to wear masks until the COVID numbers are under 25/100,000 cases in Missoula County or until the Trustees remove the requirement. Carol Wolfe second the motion. Masking will go into effect on Monday, September, 20, 2021.

# ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted by:

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Honore D. Bray, Director Date

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Audra Loyal, Vice Chair of the Trustees Date