

Missoula Public Library
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2025
6:00 pm

Missoula Public Library, Blackfoot Room & 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 Megan Moore.

ROLL CALL: Peter Donaldson, Julie Edwards, Megan Moore, Alex Beal, Janice Nugent, Katy Walter

OTHERS PRESENT: Slaven Lee, Will Klaczynski

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON ANYTHING NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA

None

1. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes – January 22, 2025

Claims – January 2025

Statistics – January 2025

Discussion: Megan had questions about the Far Side signs. The Foundation is splitting the cost - some signage needed relocated due to the Teen Area swap. Also, spectrUM and the Living Lab requested decals to increase privacy.

Citizen Comments: None.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

County budget process is moving along. Our base budget looks like it will have a 400K deficit because of less and less tax revenue, which reinforces the need for the mill levy. Slaven is working through the budget with County Finance to find savings. The library has spent within the approved budget for the last two fiscal years.

Front doors still having issues, as well as west side doors. The doors are propped open right now. Slaven is working with new door vendor to get those fixed.

Stair railing broken due to a patron issue. Being fixed.

DNA climber passed its safety inspection. Special floor tiles are backordered, but they're coming. Should be able to be opened later this spring.

Labor Management Committee will meet on February 25. The agenda includes a continued discussion about safety updates in the Director's Report. Slaven will highlight trends and big interactions with patrons. Trends: drug paraphernalia in restrooms, smoking in restrooms. Food messes. An inebriated patron was being escorted out, patron lunged at staff person, broke the railing, was restrained by safety person. Police were involved and there will be a deescalation refresher training. Megan asked after the safety of the staff member. Peter asked about how often deescalation training happens and whether board members can be involved.

Big Sky Decon Services decontaminated public restrooms using UV-C light. They've been here twice. They posted a video on social media of the bathrooms, linking the mess to letting homeless patrons come to the building overnight - which is disinformation. Slaven got them to take the video down.

There are some questions about the green roof and whether it will be funded due to legislation moving through the state (it's federally allocated but the state needs to accept the funds ~125K). There is still time to advocate for the green roof and once we learn more Slaven will share that with the board.

Citizen comments: None.

3. BOARD SHARED TRAINING

Peter had a question about the timeline in the informational packet from MSL about identifying funding. Megan clarified that it was for the campaign, which would be led by the Friends and Foundation. The amount we need will depend on the what we want decide to do for a campaign. It costs 4K to get it on the ballot.

Does this process change with the mill levy changes moving through the state? It's unclear, and we can talk with Chris Lounsbury if we decide to move forward. This would be a mill for the city/county. There are others who have done a repeal and replace (Missoula Aging Services) who will be a good resource for us.

Alex asked if we should consider this next month to see what happens in the legislature to have more information. The board had a good discussion about the pros and cons of deciding to move forward.

Citizen Comments: None

4. NEW BUSINESS

Mill Levy

Megan asked for a motion for the mill levy for 2026. Alex moved to proceed with a levy in 2026 to convert the current levy to a mill rather than a set dollar amount. Peter seconded. Motion passed.

We will have help from the state field rep and MPL union president, the Foundation, and the Friends.

Executive Director Annual Evaluation

The board will talk with the Leadership team and others in the library as part of Slaven's evaluation using the survey that Megan is putting together. Data will be given to Megan by April 9.

Action Item: Megan will get the survey to Julie, who will send the list of staff contacts to the board so they can start setting up interviews.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Collection Development Policy - The board had a great discussion about language, materials collected, etc. Alex motioned to approve the collection development policy. Approved.

Policy Manual Review and Progress - We are moving forward and will bring the next policies to the board as they're ready.

Program Attendance - Julie attended a Missoula Symphony Association program for young kids, and it was wonderful. Full of kids having a great time, singing, reading, asking great questions.

Stephan Graham Jones will be reading in the library on March 23.

Citizen Comments: None.

Adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Next meeting will take place at the Missoula Public Library and online: March 26, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by:

Slaven Lee

02/27/2025

Slaven Lee, Director

Date

Julie Edwards

2/27/25

Julie Edwards, Co-Chair of the Trustees

Date