## **Missoula Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting** **Minutes**

May 28, 2025 6:00 PM   
Missoula Public Library, Blackfoot Board Room and Zoom

Present: Slaven Lee, Megan Moore, Alex Beal, Julie Edwards, Katy Walter, Janice Nugent, Brian West

Excused: Peter Donaldson

Megan Moore, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Citizen comments on anything not included on the agenda  
 Citizen Comments: None

Consent Agenda

* + Minutes – April 23, 2025
  + Claims – April 2025
  + Statistics – April

Action Item: Slaven will email Brian about the paperwork for the makerspace.

Citizen Comments: None

DNA Climber – Legal Strategy (Executive Session)

Brian West came to talk about litigation against Process Curiosity.

The board went into executive session at 6:06 PM. Resumed at 6:46 PM.

The board moved to approve support the initiation of litigation by Missoula County on behalf of the library against Process Curiosity.

Director’s Report

* + DNA climber open
  + Landscaping discussions. Slaven is setting up meetings with local, award-winning landscape architect to discuss improving our landscaping and moving toward a more sustainable design.

Action Item: Megan will send Slaven the name of the group that manages the native gardens around the University Center.

* + Megan and Slaven attended the annual training in Polson from April 25-26. There were sessions on parliamentary procedure, working with local government, continuing education, and the annual board meeting. Slaven participated on a panel discussion about working successfully with Library Friends and the Foundation.
  + A City Council member raised a patron concern. A child with severe autism loves the library but is afraid to use the restroom because of the loud hand dryers. Within a couple of days, Facilities disconnected the dryer and auto flush toilet, and we created a sign advertising that restroom as a “Sensory-Sensitive Restroom for a quieter experience.”

New Business

* + Library Social Worker Presentation – moved to a future meeting.
  + Staff Training Day - Slaven proposes we close on August 28 for an all-day staff training day. Slaven would like to bring the State of Mind public performance group in do an interactive workshop, followed by something like CPR or Makerspace training. The board voted to close on August 28 for the staff training.
  + AUOR Partners – we aren’t losing partners, but we should start thinking about what to do if we lose people in these spaces.
    - **Families First** – received notice that their Department of Justice grant has been terminated due to a federal inquiry into the funding agency. This unexpected development has resulted in the immediate pause of all DOJ-funded programs which includes all family education programs such as Circle of Security, The Parent Team, Dads & Dialogue, and Dream Bigger Summer. Funding from the Montana Board of Crime Control, which fully funds the Dream Bigger Afterschool Program, is scheduled to end in June.
    - **spectrUM** – lost approximately 500k in grants, including funds from IMLS. Saturday museum closure for the summer (historically the least busy day) and increased volunteer involvement.
    - **Living Lab** – awaiting word from NIH SEPA to continue operations. Need funds by July. Currently operating using bridge funds from UM.

Citizens Comments: None

### Unfinished Business

* + Mill Levy Campaign – Slaven shared a timeline for us to look at. The director of the Great Falls library has agreed to present to us next month about their recent mill levy process. Slaven is asking the board to look at the timeline she shared. Alex asked for a summary of legislative decisions and rules around mill levies. Chris Lounsbury is working on that.
  + Intellectual Freedom Statement – the board moved to update the Intellectual Freedom statement on the library website.

Action Item: Slaven will talk with staff to have this added to the website.

* + Program Attendance – Jancie complimented the toys out in the Tiny Town children’s area. Peter stopped by the RAD this month and was impressed with the various services/resources present. He enjoyed chatting with a couple of the organizations who were there. Seeing the level of attendance and talking with Virginia about how consistently the RAD events are utilized by community members was awesome! Katy attended the writing awards and really enjoyed seeing the kids proud of their writing. Megan didn’t go to an event but was complimented by a small kid on her library hat - “I love the library!!”

Citizen Comments: None

**Next meeting will take place at the Missoula Public Library and online: June 25, 2025. We will allot two hours for this meeting to accommodate the presentation from Great Falls.**

Megan adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM.  
Respectfully submitted by:

Slaven Lee, Director Date 5/29/25

Julie Edwards, Co-Chair of the Trustees Date