



**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021
4:00 P.M.**

The Board met in regular session in a hybrid format via Zoom webinar and in person.

Chair Holland called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

1) ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Amy Ghilieri, Wayne Holland, Zanny Marsh, Jean Stoess,
Frank Perez

County Staff Present: Assistant District Attorney Herb Kaplan, Assistant County
Manager David Solaro

Public Present: None noted

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Approval of Minutes from the Library Board Meeting of September 15, 2021

On motion by Trustee Ghilieri, seconded by Trustee Marsh, which motion duly carried, the Board approved minutes from the September 15, 2021 meeting. All in favor, none opposed.

4) OLD BUSINESS

None

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. *For Discussion Only: Washoe County Library System Strategic Plan Draft*

Library Director Jeff Scott reviewed the Washoe County Library System Strategic Plan Draft and requested input from the Board. He discussed the Executive Summary and the format of the August 2021 survey. He reviewed the processes involved in collecting and compiling data from the surveys and highlighted some of the topics that came up frequently in the responses, such as book requests and suggestions, patrons expressing appreciation for the chance to browse new materials, and community members sharing how much they enjoyed spending time and hanging out at their local library branches.

Director Scott also reviewed sub-categories within the strategic plan, including programs for seniors, supporting schools and early literacy development, expanding tutoring in schools, workforce development and training – both virtual and in person – and the libraries’ roles in the future of virtual office and remote work in the community. He discussed upcoming renovations at local branches and the progress being made towards the new mobile book van.

Director Scott mentioned important upcoming tax initiatives and discussed plans to raise community awareness of potential impacts to the Library System if citizens did not vote to renew the taxes which currently funded a large portion of the Library System’s activities.

There was discussion regarding library renovations and the recent renewal of the lease for the Sierra View Library. Director Scott noted the Reno Town Mall had agreed to contribute towards 50 percent of the branch renovations. He also reminded the Board the strategic plan was still within the draft and planning phase, with work still remaining to be done and continued data collection in process.

b. *For Review and Approval: Accept \$104,315.14 Senior Center Library Donation from Kaiser Trust*

Public Information Officer Andrea Tavener discussed a generous \$104,315.14 donation made by the Keiser Family Trust to the Washoe County Library System in support of the Senior Center Library. Ms. Tavener expressed gratitude on behalf of the Library System and staff for the donation, which would make a tremendous difference to the senior citizens of Washoe County. She requested the Board acknowledge the gift so distribution of funds could begin.

On motion by Trustee Perez, seconded by Trustee Stoess, which motion duly carried, the Board accepted the monetary gift fund donation from the Keiser Family Trust to the Washoe County Library System Senior Center Branch in the amount of \$104,315.14. All in favor, none opposed.

6) REPORTS

a. Library Director's Report

Director Scott reviewed the Library Director's Report for October 2021. He discussed the implementation of expanded hours at several branches and the reopening of the Duncan Traner and Verdi libraries. Director Scott noted expanding hours had been the top suggestion identified in strategic planning forums and staff were happy to be able to finally meet that demand.

Director Scott stated the Library System had applied to the Washoe County Impact Awards for recognition of its efforts in response to the COVID pandemic, including the Virtual Early Literacy Program and production of 3D-printed face shields, face masks, and personal protective equipment distribution throughout the community.

Noting the recent launch of a partnership with the Northern Nevada Literacy Council, Director Scott explained Adult Basic Education Instruction would begin at the Sierra View Library, with plans for later expansion to four other branches. He discussed a proclamation planned to honor the Friends of the Washoe County Library at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on October 19, 2021, and expressed appreciation for the dedication of the Friends volunteers who provided critical support to library operations throughout the community.

Director Scott stated County Commissioner Forums would be coming to various library branches, allowing the use of meeting rooms after-hours to facilitate improved communication between the County and its citizens.

Director Scott expressed condolences to the family, friends, and coworkers of long-time Washoe County and Washoe County Library System employee Kim Carlson, who passed away suddenly in September 2021. He shared memories of Ms. Carlson and remarked she would be dearly missed.

Director Scott reviewed the return of Bookmobile services to the County, noting the Library System had been awarded a \$73,000 grant from the Nevada State Library and Archives through the Institute of Museum and Library Services American Rescue Plan Act. The new Bookmobile was expected to be on the road by May 2022. Director Scott also discussed the success of the recent County Manager Story Time at the South Valleys Library, and stated he hoped Manager Eric Brown would return for future story times and events.

Finally, Director Scott provided an overview of recent hiring activities within the Washoe County Library System, noting more than 40 new staff members had been brought on board since May 2021. Future hiring plans included a Department Systems Specialist position within Library Technology Services, more Library

Assistant II and III positions, and Library Aides. Staff hoped to be back to full staffing levels by January 2022.

b. Maker Team Report

South Valleys Library Branch Manager Julie Ullman reviewed the Maker Team Report. She discussed distribution of more than 600 Hands On Learning Activities (HOLA) kits provided with the support of the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA), the Nevada State Library and Archives, and the Desert Research Institute (DRI). These kits were distributed to third through fifth grade students throughout Washoe County in order to promote a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education and get kids excited about space travel and exploration. Ms. Ullman noted DRI was working with NASA to get surveys back from the children who utilized the kits, with an online survey version available which she hoped families would respond to.

Ms. Ullman also discussed other activities at the Spanish Springs and Incline Village library branches, aimed at engaging youth ages six through twelve who were interested in robotics. These events would begin in January. She also noted the Washoe County Library System would be participating in a robot-themed community-wide Science and Technology Festival event at the Discovery Museum in April 2022.

c. Tacchino Trust Update

Library Director Jeff Scott reviewed the Tacchino Trust report for October 2021 and noted funds available at the beginning of the month were \$227,642.46. He noted renovations for the Sparks and Northwest Reno branches would begin soon.

d. Board Task Report

Library Director Jeff Scott briefly reviewed the Board Task Report; there had not been many changes from the previous month. A copy of the report was provided within the agenda packet.

7) STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

8) PUBLIC COMMENT

None

9) BOARD COMMENT

None

10) ADJOURNMENT

Chair Holland adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.