



*** SPECIAL MEETING ***

**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022 | 5:15 PM**

*** Please Note: Virtual/Zoom Meeting Only ***

Library Trustees

Amy Ghilieri, Chair
Frank Perez, Vice-Chair
Ann Medaille
Lea Moser
Vacant

Members of the public may attend this meeting and provide public comment, if desired, by teleconference or by phone. To join via teleconference, log into the Zoom webinar accessible through the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81710204854>. If prompted, use the following passcode: 889408. To attend by phone, dial +1 (669) 900-6833 or +1 (719) 359-4580 and use the following information to join: Meeting ID 817 1020 4854 Passcode 889408

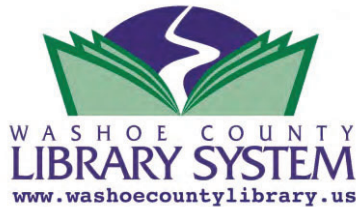
Forum Restrictions and Orderly Conduct of Business. The Library Board of Trustees conducts the business of the Washoe County Library system and its citizens during its meetings. The orderly, efficient conduct of the meeting is integral and necessary to allow the Board to conduct business. The Chair may order the removal of any person whose statement or other conduct disrupts the orderly, efficient or safe conduct of the meeting. Warnings against disruptive comments or behavior may or may not be given prior to removal.

Public Comment. Public Comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person. During the "Public Comment" items, anyone may speak pertaining to any matter either on or off the agenda. The Open Meeting Law does not require any additional public comment. However, at the discretion of the Chairperson, public comment may be allowed on items designated "For Possible Action," which comment, if allowed, must pertain to the specific agenda item. Anyone wishing to provide live public comment may do so by teleconference by logging onto the Zoom webinar by accessing the above link, or by telephone using the above listed information.

The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks, which antagonize or incite are examples of speech that may be reasonably limited.

Response to Public Comment. The Board can deliberate or take action only if a matter has been listed on an agenda properly posted prior to the meeting. During the public comment periods, speakers may address matters listed or not listed on the published agenda. The Open Meeting Law does not expressly prohibit responses to public comments by the Board. However, responses from the Board members to unlisted public comment topics could become deliberation on a matter without notice to the public. On the advice of legal counsel and to ensure the public has notice of all matters the Board will consider, Board members may choose not to respond to public comments, except to correct factual

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inaccuracies, ask for Staff action or to ask that a matter be listed on a future agenda. The Board may do this either during the public comment item or during the following item: “Board Comment – limited to announcements, strategic plan activity updates, or issues proposed for future agendas and/or workshops.”

Support Documentation. Support documentation/backup for items on the agenda is available to members of the public at the Downtown Reno Library Administration Office, 301 South Center Street, Reno, Nevada, and may be obtained by contacting L J Burton at (775) 327-8343 or by email at ljburton@washoecounty.us. Documents will also be uploaded to the Washoe County Library website at <https://www.washoecountylibrary.us/about/board.php> under the Library Board of Trustees - Agendas and Minutes section.

Special Accommodations. We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend meetings. Should you require special arrangements for any Trustee meeting, please contact our office at (775) 327-8341, at least 24 hours prior to the date of the meeting.

Possible Changes to Agenda and Timing. The Library Board of Trustees may take agenda items out of order, consider two or more items in combination, remove one or more items from the agenda, or delay discussion on an item.

Pursuant to NRS 241.020, the agenda for the Trustees’ meeting has been posted at the following locations: Washoe County Courthouse, Washoe County Administration building, Downtown Reno Library, Incline Village Library, North Valleys Library, Northwest Reno Library, South Valleys Library, Spanish Springs Library, and Sparks Library. Further, in compliance with NRS 241.010, this notice has been posted on the official website for the Washoe County Library System at www.washoecountylibrary.us and at <https://notice.nv.gov>.

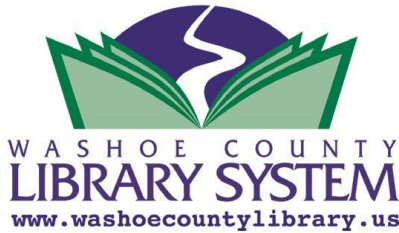
LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

301 South Center Street | PO Box 2151, Reno NV 89505
(775) 327-8341 | www.washoecountylibrary.us



The Board of Trustees may take action only on the items below that are preceded by the words "For Possible Action." The Board will not take action on any other items.

- 1) Roll Call
- 2) Public Comment – Three Minute Time Limit Per Person
No discussion or action may be taken upon any matter raised under this public comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.
- 3) Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a) *For Possible Action:* Approval of Minutes from the Library Board Meeting of September 21, 2022.
- 4) Public Comment – Three Minute Time Limit Per Person
No discussion or action may be taken upon any matter raised under this public comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.
- 5) Board Comment – Limited to Announcements, Strategic Plan Activity Updates or Issues Proposed for Future Agendas and/or workshops
- 6) Adjournment



**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022
4:00 P.M.**

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

Chair Ghilieri called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

1) ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Frank Perez, Amy Ghilieri, Lea Grace, Ann Medaille

Board Members Absent: None

County Staff Present: Library Director Jeff Scott, Assistant District Attorney Herbert Kaplan, Assistant County Manager David Solaro

Public Present: Bruce Parks, Paul White, Earl Jones, Janice Jones, Valerie Fiannaca, Reva Crump, Rene Resent, Janet Butcher, Stacey Purell, Victoria Mayer, Bruce Foster, Marsha S., Steve Phillips, Thea Phillips, Dennis McCloy, Wayne Gordon, Gary Butcher, Ray Edward, Zoe S., Alan Munson, Mary Jones

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

Several speakers provided comments opposing the Washoe County Library System's hosting of Drag Queen Story Time events.

The opposed individuals shared concerns regarding:

- a belief that public libraries and their representative staff should strive to conduct business in a politically neutral manner in order to best serve their constituents, including the avoidance of programming that involved controversial or politicized topics;
- a belief that drag queen events often involved adult-oriented themes that were not appropriate for minors;

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- the potential impact of exposing young children to issues of sexuality or gender identity;
- personal religious or moral opposition to LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning) topics or culture;
- disapproval of the caricatured or exaggerated style female impersonators often used to portray women, or the fact that their stage personas could have been originally created for the purposes of adult entertainment;
- fears that public libraries might no longer be a safe place for children and families;
- the ways in which the Library System's overall goals of celebrating diversity and being more inclusive of minorities had resulted in programming that offended other populations;
- questions as to why the Library Board had cancelled three of its regularly scheduled meetings over the summer; and
- a belief that the Library Trustees' decisions were influenced by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) since the Trustees were appointed to their roles rather than being elected by the citizens of Washoe County.

In response to questions regarding recently cancelled meetings, commenter Mary Jones noted the Board's bylaws required a quorum of three to conduct business, and there had only been two Board members remaining until the new Trustees were appointed.

Ms. Jones supported the Library System's efforts to create programming that celebrated Washoe County's diversity, including minorities. She mentioned well-known films in popular culture where male actors had dressed as women, and she fondly recalled attending comedic drag shows as a young adult.

Another individual who did not state his name indicated it felt almost surreal that public libraries would even allow such activities.

Victoria Mayer shared a photograph which she opined was evidence that Ms. Devine was not an appropriate role model for children. The picture, shown on Ms. Devine's public Facebook page, showed her wearing a revealing, adult-themed outfit.

3) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Approval of Minutes from the Library Board Meeting of May 18, 2022

On motion by Trustee Lea Grace, seconded by Trustee Frank Perez, which motion duly carried, the Board approved minutes from the May 18, 2022 meeting. All in favor, none opposed.

4) OLD BUSINESS

None

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. **For Possible Action: Election of Chair for Library Board of Trustees for Fiscal Year 22- 23**

Director Jeff Scott spoke about the Board election for Chair and Vice Chair and selection of a liaison to the Friends of the Washoe County Libraries. Frank Perez nominated Amy Ghilieri for Chair. On motion by Trustee Lea Grace, seconded by Trustee Ann Medaille, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the election of Amy Ghilieri as Chair. All in favor, none opposed.

b. **For Possible Action: Election of Vice Chair for Library Board of Trustees for Fiscal Year 22-23**

Amy Ghilieri nominated Frank Perez for Vice Chair. On motion by Trustee Grace, seconded by Trustee Medaille, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the election of Frank Perez as Vice Chair. All in favor, none opposed.

c. **For Possible Action: Appointment of One Library Board Trustee as Friends of Washoe County Library Liaison**

Director Jeff Scott discussed selection of a liaison and a back up liaison. Chair Ghilieri was chosen as the Board's primary liaison, with Vice Chair Perez serving as her back up liaison.

d. **For Possible Action: Approval of Library Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule / Service Team Presentation Cycle 2022-2023**

On motion by Chair Ghilieri, seconded by Vice Chair Perez, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the Library Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule / Service Team Presentation Cycle for 2022-2023. All in favor, none opposed.

e. **For Possible Action: Approval of Library Board of Trustee Bylaws for Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

Chair Ghilieri stated the Board still needed a fifth Trustee and asked Director Scott about plans to fill the vacancy; Director Scott replied that the process would move forward within the next week or so. On motion by Vice Chair Perez, seconded by Trustee Medaille, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the bylaws for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. All in favor, none opposed.

6) REPORTS

a. Library Director's Report

Director Scott reviewed the September strategic plan update. He spoke regarding progress with the book mobile and determining its stops. He mentioned KUNR, KOLO TV, and other opportunities for book lists in the community and media, as well as discussing subscription services, homebound services, and Author Talks. He described current and future projects including the book vending machine for Cold Springs; delivery was expected in December or January and a kickoff event would be held in February 2023.

Providing welcoming spaces, another goal of the strategic plan, had led to enhancement of Washoe County Library System spaces through renovations, creation of additional meeting spaces, new furniture, and equipment. He touched on completed projects at the South Valleys Library and Spanish Springs Library, and thanked County Commissioners Vaughn Hartung and Bob Lucey for the special district funds provided to support the projects.

Director Scott shared that almost all Tacchino Trust funding had been expended and the related projects completed. Upcoming projects consisted of planned Sierra View and Senior Center Library renovations; the Sierra View renovations would commence on September 30, and that branch would close on October 17 for construction. Fiber internet to Gerlach was expected to be complete by September 23, and all library branches would be upgraded to fiber internet and speeds increased.

Director Scott discussed the Downtown Reno Library elevator and family restroom plans, and he noted workforce training and creating virtual space opportunities for the post-COVID environment were additional goals. Lifelong learning activities were being planned to improve the welfare of and provide more resources for learners and seniors in Washoe County, which would also be another way to celebrate Washoe County's diverse community.

b. Spanish Springs Library Report

Spanish Springs Library Branch Manager Jana MacMillan reviewed the branch report and detailed activities at the Spanish Springs Library between February and September 2022, including the Get to Know Your Library project, a video series interviewing staff members. Ms. MacMillan welcomed new Library Aides, Anakin and Andrew.

c. Youth Library and Library Events Presentation

Beate Weinert discussed the summer reading program's theme, 'Oceans of Possibilities', author talks, and other events, projects, and celebrations focused on serving Washoe County's diverse community and expanding opportunities for inclusion. Judy Hansen reviewed teen events and programming for adults.

7) STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Debi Stears, Collections Development Manager, explained the State of Nevada had provided special funding for public libraries, and most of those funds received by Washoe County Library System would be used for the Libby application.

8) PUBLIC COMMENT

Craig Newton discussed law enforcement and prison systems, child molesters, and murder. He felt libraries were condoning immoral activities.

Public commenter Zoe S., participating remotely via Zoom, said programs such as the Drag Queen Story Time were beneficial for many children, and no one was forcing the opposed families to attend the events. She opined many of the public commenters who were protesting Drag Queen Story Time events appeared to be over 50 years of age.

At that point, several individuals interrupted loudly, causing the remainder of Ms. S's comment to be inaudible. Offending speakers were reminded that anyone speaking out of turn or disrupting the meeting could be asked to leave.

Bruce Parks reiterated disapproval of Drag Queen Story Times and indicated he suspected the Library Board may have violated open meeting laws.

Gary Butcher felt Ms. S's observation regarding the ages of the protestors was offensive. He added that Washoe County needed to elect different County Commissioners.

Janet Butcher restated her opposition to Drag Queen events in public libraries.

Julie Newman believed the Library Board could be in violation of the bylaws.

Valerie Fiannaca felt insulted that individuals over 50 years of age had been referred to as 'seniors'. She indicated her children and grandchildren were also opposed to the Drag Queen Story Time events.

9) BOARD COMMENT

Vice Chair Frank Perez was impressed with staff who ran the daily operations at the Spanish Springs, Downtown Reno, Northwest Reno, and North Valleys branches. He expressed appreciation for work being done to expand access into areas within the County which had been underserved and said he was excited to hear about the programming planned for teens and youth. He thanked Library System staff and asked them to keep up with their good work.

Chair Amy Ghilieri welcomed the new Trustees, mentioned a recent plant sale that had been held at the Sierra View Library, and commended staff member Bonnie on the plants she had raised.

Vice Chair Perez added that he wished to recognize former Trustees Wayne Holland, Zanny Marsh, and Jean Stoess for their hard work and service to the Board and the community.

10) ADJOURNMENT

Chair Amy Ghilieri adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.