



**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023 | 5:00 P.M.
NORTH VALLEYS LIBRARY
1075 N HILLS BLVD, RENO NV 89506**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chair Frank Perez called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. He called a brief recess at 5:05 p.m. and re-convened the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

Frank Perez, Chair
Gianna Jacks, Vice Chair
Lea Moser, Trustee
Al Rogers, Trustee
Ann Silver, Trustee

Absent:

None

County Staff:

Jeff Scott, Library Director
Herb Kaplan, Deputy District Attorney
Dave Solaro, Deputy County Manager

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

William Puchert

I wore my communist party t-shirt tonight for the benefit of some here who have loosely hurled labels of 'communist' and 'Marxist' at me during previous meetings; something that the person who addressed County Commissioners yesterday should remember when she complained about being called a fascist. I don't think these people understand what the labels communist and Marxist really mean as I do.



You see, my late father was born in Vladivostok, Russia, and what was then the Soviet Union. Because my grandfather's profession as a Merchant Marine caused him to have contact with foreigners, a very suspicious Stalin regime held my father's family suspect, and they were forced to flee for their lives and ultimately emigrate to America. While Stalin may be long gone, a relic of that Soviet era still remains in the form of Vladimir Putin, and repression exists to this state and as the former head of the KGB. You can't get more 'commie' than Putin. According to Human Rights Watch LGBTQ you in Russia face formidable barriers to fundamental rights to dignity, health, education, information, and association. The 2013 gay propaganda law signed by Putin to pander to his religious face has increased social hostility, having a stifling effect on access to affirming education and support services with harmful consequences to LGBTQ. Russia's gay propaganda law is a classic example of political homophobia. It targets vulnerable sexual and gender minorities for political gain. Why is this relevant? Because a politically orchestrated homophobia campaign is playing out here, with opposition to Drag Queen Story Hour and certain LGBTQ library materials. As I have mentioned here before, I do not want to see targeting of those who are different, like a high school friend of mine who was bullied and harassed because of his sexual identity back in the late 80s – or God forbid, what happened to Matthew Shephard, a gay student at the University of Wyoming who was beaten, tortured, and left to die near Laramie in 1998. More than 11,600 hate crimes incidents were reported to the FBI in 2022, the highest number recorded since the agency started tracking them in 1991. The Russians have a saying: "The dead remember our indifference, the dead remember our silence." You've heard the benefits of teaching tolerance instead of perpetuating a cycle of hate. Our sources of access to information and ideas – that is the bedrock of a free and democratic society. Do not allow a vocal minority to silence us, or we head down the path of the 'commies' and the fascists.

Bruce Parks

Bruce Parks for the record. There are so many issues I'd like to address but in only three minutes, little bit difficult. First thing I'd like to talk about is the tax plan that is not an action item on the agenda tonight. I would like for you to know that there's a lot of propaganda in the package and very little facts as a board trustee I would be asking questions. Washoe County Libraries South Valleys and Spanish Springs Libraries are two of the newest libraries that we have why do they need renovation I don't understand where's the dollar amounts associated with that renovation where's the dollar amount that this tax plan brings into the library are you the trustees seeing this information have you asked about this information it's that if I was a trustee I would be very interested to see I want to know the numbers there's so much information that you guys are preserving and it's all a dog and pony show nothing is perfectly to what your jobs are your jobs are to hold the library system accountable so that we the people know where our tax dollars are going and we're not standing any of that. Where's the accountability? You know according to this propaganda if the tax plan fails you're going to have to lay off Librarians and the book budget will be eliminated. Oh come on really? Really where's the cost for that, show me the breakdown of how the money's spent so I know whether that's a factual statement or not, otherwise it is exactly that – propaganda. You know one of the programs that save you a whole lot of money, save us tax taxpayers a lot of money is that drag queen story program, that we still do not know what the dollar amount per child is being spent by the library. Why are you not asking for that information?



It's crucial, how can you evaluate the director and know whether or not you're passing or failing him if you don't have the raw data? You need that information folks, I'm quite surprised that we the people have to ask for it, should be coming from you. Thank you.

Bruce Foster

Bruce Foster for the record and you probably know why I'm here I am inquiring about the issue of getting my library card reinstated and I believe all of you have received emails and explanations and bottom line in a reader digest form is that I'm part of a group that we identifying and reading pretty horrific graphic books that are currently in the library and then it spills over into our Public School libraries which we identified quite a few of them and mine that I read for a book report all boys aren't blue which is a book about a black man growing up and finally identified as gay and then it goes through all his graphic escapades which I don't know if any of you read that book but I am going through as Mr. Jeff over here has rescinded my right to be able to use my library card I have gone through the process of going through the appeals process and I submitted this some time ago over a month ago and going through the proper channels and I was supposed to go through Stephanie McKenzie and I am yet to get any kind of feedback from Stephanie and what I find interesting is that with this and I guess my issue is that being a Christian to stay focused and to work on this project and do this book report I have put Bible verses within the books as bookmarkers and apparently that's a major offense and according to some individuals that that damaged the book and when I put in my appeals I'm trying to figure out how I damaged that book and it's fascinating that where is that book today and what's also interesting is that I gave you a sheet censored by your neighbors, and this proved that it was not damaged but it had a note there returned with propaganda up between Pages interesting so I'll leave with that and the other part is that we as a group are opposed to drag queen Story Hour and Christopher Daniels AKA Ginger Divine has a lurid background.

Ursula Frank

I am here because I don't think that there should be any limitations on Story Time. I don't think that there should be any limitations on the books that are in the library. I have worked for an OBGYN in my past. I'm a former nurse and a manager. We had people that transitioned. This was back in 1980s, women that transitioned to be men, and men that transitioned to be women. I work for an endocrinologist here in Reno; we also had a lot of trans patients, and even had youth that were not trans but they were taking medication to help them identify as what they felt their true self was. I don't think that we should be restricting books. In fact, when my son was quite young the worst punishment that I could ever inflict on him was to not be able to have stories.

Valeria Fiannaca

I want to thank you all for your service and happy Veterans Day to all your Veterans in the audience who served. Speaking of veterans, I noticed the absence of the book mobile in the Veterans Day Parade. We can have a presence in the Pride Parade but not the Veterans Day Parade and I'm wondering if that's a funding issue if it is we should solve that. Speaking of funding and fiscal issues, no financial reports are attached to your agendas ever and I find that kind of alarming. Those would go a long way to answering questions the public and for that matter the Board of Trustees may have. They used to be attached monthly.



Mr. Scott's got here that the county library tax is supposed to sunset and they are counting on citizens. Given the interest rate hikes that may put that tax initiative in a precarious position. You mentioned television and radio ads which I know from my personal business are very expensive. I would like to lay eyes on your actual budget and I would also like to be able to compare donations from 2022 and 2023 so that we can see if they've fallen or if they've gone up. It could just be interesting to know. Ms. Silver you've mentioned that you have known Mr. Scott for a long time, I would hope that you in your evaluation of Mr. Scott can set aside your personal relationship or knowledge of him and just evaluate all the recent data that's at your fingertips including three police reports, two internal harassment reports, videos and photos that have been submitted to this board and to the County Commission. Out of over 3500 great programs that this Library sponsors there's one that creates chaos, only one. We need to keep that in the top of our mind. There have been no book challenges by this group, none so far. If that's the only one that brings chaos and I do believe that the outcome that they're desiring is chaos, that can be the only explanation for why they're so obstinate on this single program, I don't understand any other logical reason to bring this much chaos down on the library system which does such a fantastic job for community.

Sandee Tibbett

Explicit books being accessible to our children in our Public Library is not a red or a blue issue, this is an issue that affects all the children in our community and it should be important to every parent no matter what side of the aisle you reside on. It is time for the Board, our Library Director and the community members to come together to create a resolution that will help heal the fractured relationship that is visibly growing within our community. I would like to think we can all agree that material easily accessible to a child should be age appropriate. Doing sexual things in bed is not age appropriate for a three-year-old; the sexually explicit books can be relocated to the adult section in the library for the parents who want to expose their young children to this type of material which is their right, you have that right to do that, we parents, the parents who do not want their children exposed to this type of material, also have rights to bring their child to a safe environment with having without having to worry about their child picking up a book that instructs them on how to have sex but confusing them with complex gender ideology. So I want to thank Vice Chair Jacks, Trustee Moser, thank you, and Trustee Rogers you acknowledge the receipt of my email regarding my idea for the creation of a community standards committee made up of community members appointed by the trustees on this board, and it will follow the Miller test. So the Fresno County California Board of Supervisors approved last week to move forward with their resolution which they called the Parents Matter Act. I am proposing the Washoe County Empower Parents Act modeled after Fresno County's resolution. So I was able to pull a copy of the resolution which I doctored to modify it to Washoe County. It's something we can build on, it's a model right, I ask that each of you read it and please consider moving forward with creating our own resolution committee and I want to note that the school board has multiple subcommittees for everything so this Library Board can do this as well. I would also like to propose the implementation of an email notification sent to parents letting them know the title of the book their child has checked out so this be something a parent can opt in on and I know we have the budget, I'm sure, Jeff could do this with your IT department, but this is just another way to empower the parents and help strengthen the library's relationship with the community. Thank you.



Janet Butcher

Janet Butcher for the record please enter my comments into the record verbatim is that better yeah there go I want to talk a little bit about the bylaws I understand they have not been ratified at this point so I just wanted to talk about on the agendas and it says the director shall ensure the preparation blah blah blah however whether and or when the item is actually placed on the agenda remains in the discretion of the chair if a board member wants to have something on the agenda why is there a dictatorship then underneath the organization and membership in the event a trustee's term expires the trustee shall continue to serve as trustee until such time the replacement is appointed the problem with the highlighted sentence or this highlighted sentence is that this does not help the appointment by the County Commissioners we know they want to drag their feet we need a motivator then under the order of business I would like to see actually in there the Pledge of Allegiance because we know that there was not very need was put back in very efficient of it you're welcome but I think it should be a part should show up in the bylaws also public comment the last public comment was struck out and they started to remove it in July which I don't think is correct if it could do that then because it hadn't been voted on so anyway it should remain and then I want to talk about the request for reconsideration of the library materials it's nice that the public is finally being made aware of the process of pest book to be moved to an audit section or another action I would like to suggest that this form be updated in a more professional way there is no header or marking noting that it is indeed a form for the Washoe County library even a watermark on the page would be nice could the form be found can the form be found in the Washoe County library site I wasn't it could it be set up to be electronically filed could there be a process of transparency for any forms for the public view.

Reva Crump

Reva Crump for the record please record my comments into the minutes tonight you'll be hearing about a three-phase plan to be presented this evening um it's more of a reflection of brainstorming than an actual plan it could be implemented because what you have to ask yourself is what is missing in this plan and what you're going to not see is any numbers um here are some suggestions as trustees you might be running through in your head and you maybe should be discussing amongst yourselves how much of this tax that's supposed to be sunset bring in yearly and over the last three years so how much is up with stake for this where is that money what is the estimated cost of base three this media exactly where will the money be obtained but we'll get to that later if the tax passes what loss is expected by the impending housing crash that we are experiencing and we are going right into now the property taxes will now be readjusted and lowered and has this been addressed in the upcoming budget because there's going to be a lack of funding there and where's it going to come from and where's that going to be pet the key to your presentation tonight is to ask yourself what is missing not what you're seeing is there what isn't being told to you the statistical report which is in your packet your 106 page packet compares two sequential months where the data how does that data compare to same time last year don't you wonder page 69 of your handout donation list how does this compare to the same time last year are donations up or donations down and if down how is phase three going to be accomplished by the director getting donations from other people because if donations are already down and he's expecting to solicit even more to enter the



media blitz I don't see the plan for that anywhere in what was being going to be presented if the tax Sunset tax sunsets will the director simply be writing more grants like he did for the bookmobile and the friends of Washoe counties pulled back from the bookmobile and decided not to purchase it and why didn't anyone ask why did that happen no one seems to be asking why that actually happened why did the friends pull the funding back how can you how can this Library not be able to calculate the cost estimated cost of future events and know the cost of events that have actually occurred where are the numbers of people and why are you asking for them and why is it public having to do it that's what I want.

Alona Fitzgerald

Good evening Chair, Vice Chair, my name is Alona Fitzgerald. Very simple here, my point tonight is that I want to say I would like to see our libraries be open welcoming places that are safe for people all people come in and get information, and I am a strong supporter of the drag queen story hours. I've attended those and I have attended other story hours throughout my time here in the Sparks area, and there is nothing insidious with what happens during those story hours. People are not trying to groom our children, they're just engaging individuals who want to teach people to love to read.

Kim Hardin

Kimberly Hardin, thank you for your time, I'm here to speak against Banning books. Growing up in central Nebraska my family cannot afford to buy books so instead on Saturday my parents would drive us to our local library where I developed my lifelong affair with books. My town was mostly white so it was in those books where I learned about people who did not look like me or practice the same Faith as I did and my love of reading didn't stop when I graduated from high school libraries were also a Lifeline for me during my 26 year career in the United States Army at that time Amazon wasn't a thing free shipping was unheard of so the libraries on those military bases fed my appetite for Words especially for the 10 years that I was overseas the American Library Association stated that the most challenged and or restricted reading materials have been books for children however challenges are not simply an expression of a point of view on the contrary they are an attempt to remove materials for public use thereby restricting the access of others even if the motivation to ban or challenge a book well intentioned the outcome is detrimental censorship denies our freedoms as individuals to choose and think for ourselves.

Gail Townsend

I heard things at the last October meeting that were real concerning especially the suggestion that we disaffiliate from the American Library Association. The objection was to their code of ethics and an attack on our right to read. A constitution who guarantees first amendment rights and I don't know that rest of you but I jealously guard my constitutional right and I'd like to know which one of them you want to eliminate and it's not a rhetorical question I really want to answer I noticed that in agenda we can be talking about the acquisition policy at which time trustees you may comment and I'd like to know that you are going to be protected in my constitutional rights and I really don't care what other states do if they want to be dumb and stupid let them be dumb and stupid we don't need and you have the protesters have made it clear that you do not want LGBTQ people in the library you don't want them represented in our collections in our books in our facilities and I just wonder if you accomplish that goal who's the next that you want to and you're not going to be me guys.



I'd like to talk to the fellow who read 'All Boys Aren't Blue' because I started reading that book; it's really very interesting, and you know, there's a chapter that's very sexually explicit, but I also like 'The Clan of the Cave Bear' very much and when it comes to all that sexy stuff if I'm uncomfortable I just pass those pages and get back to the main story, so it's really easy. 'All Boys Aren't Blue' is the story of a fellow who's not like us, who's Black, who's queer, that's his words – and to see life from his point of view, I'm really happy that he shared that book. I guess the last point; I've heard a lot of complaints about financial stuff – but you all left early from the meeting in October so you missed the financial information that you're requesting. I'd also like to know since you want to know how much drag story hour costs – I'd really like to know how much public money and wasted time has been occupied this year by all these long months of protests. Thank you very much.

Susan Vanness

Director Scott has failed his duties and responsibilities as Library director the Washoe County Board of Trustees must evaluate next month Jeff Scott's based on his Merit which you'll see is lacking. Numerous County residents have brought to my attention that members of The Cares Campus are entering the downtown library logging on to computers and watching pornography. The screens of the computers are visible to anyone walking by the enter to make matters worse there are eyewitnesses accounts that these individuals are masturbating and to the pornography exposing their genitals to anyone observing their disgusting Behavior this happened on several occasions as recently as last month County Human Services is located directly across the street from the library which it serves both adults and children eyewitnesses have stated that they have seen porn being played on the computers while they were standing at the Human Services entrance there are Washoe County school buses that drop children off the library after entering the library the children must overcome crossing a catwalk that overlooks the computers being used by these sexual deviants. A few months ago I brought this up to the board of county commissioner I asked the commission meeting and director Scott was present at the end of the meeting I simply asked be Scott what he was going to do about this he came at me hostilely and he said why don't you do something about this go to the library as well the reason I'm here today is to inform you that something can be done about this to this day director Scott has taken no action to stop the children from being exposed to pornography if Jeff Scott his duties and responsibilities then why is the library director a simple solution would be to relocate the library computers to the top floor where a simple no one can an innocent passer by cannot accidentally observe. Jeff Church resists the only conclusion we can arrive is that Jeff Scott is perfectly fine with subjecting children to pornography and section you must investigate this, and we must come up with a solution thank you.

Sandee Shugle

Sandy Shugle, and the reason I'm here today is actually about my son, that indoctrination of what is happening within his school. They have a LGBTQ flag. I have nothing against the trans movement or homosexuality, whatever, but in America we salute the flag, we should be doing that in our schools and we're not. That's number one. Number two, I don't have problems with books, I think everybody should read, but if you're going to have a ban on some of these books, Little Red Riding Hood for Christ's sake is banned because she has a bottle of alcohol.



Shakespeare, some of the major players that in literature everybody knows, are getting banned. The woman – I believe her name was Sandy – that said why aren't you doing appropriate books instead of Red Riding Hood – really some of these things are not necessary. I want a good foundation for my child; you are taking the books away so it's easier for them just to flip on the television so they can see sex going on. What about using the imagination? There's so many kids out there that are not reading and you are making it so they don't want to, with everything that you're doing.

Bill Miller

Good evening, Library Board and fellow citizens, I'm Bill Miller, a veteran, a former marketing creative and retired captain, and I'm here to talk about these coordinated campaigns that are appearing as if locally as if spontaneously, and yet they appear across the nation at the same time a year, year and a half ago. It was about 'woke', which flopped because it was about people being awake, as if that was a bad thing – able to think for themselves. Now around the same time, across the nation, a campaign against LGBTQ surfaced, and one of the targets was the drag queen story time. This is very interesting that this will suddenly be such an explosive issue. I remember in the 1990s, two of the biggest films of that era were Tootsie and Mrs. Doubtfire. Where was the fuss then? Please, this is my time. I'm here to urge you to not be taken under the sway of these national campaigns that are about taking away freedoms and substituting other people's opinions and biases rather than the freedom to choose – which I believe is still a rock-solid American value. These campaigns are based on fear. You hear very little facts and the facts you hear are very twisted. This is an irrational and dangerous movement, and I'm urging you to please vote this suppression down. Thank you.

Drew Reibar

My name is Drew Reibar, I'm a local businessman, I watch a lot of corruption in our government, and I've decided to document and disseminate the information of the public under our first amendment freedom of press rights. Today I'm here to petition my government those same rights. Library director Jeff Scott banned me from participating in social media but we're all included under the social media platforms that Washoe County operates, violating my first amendment constitutional effective rights. Jeff Scott has informed me that I was not special or alone in this violation; he does this regularly as a standard practice and he's blocked many more people. Recognize the courts have looked at this. I waited for this moment because currently United States Supreme Court is considering whether public officials' personal social media pages can be restricted in the case of O'Conor Ratcliffe versus Garnier. Based on the language that I just listened to the other day when I heard the case, or the the government's attorneys and the plaintiffs', it is clear that blocking people from participating in government-run social media is a violation of the First Amendment. You guys have violated my rights and I am going to bring a lawsuit. Director Scott has committed battery against me by laying his hands on me and pushing and trespassing me from Sparks Library. I am still trespassed. We wouldn't want to be exclusive here would we? All of this because I was reporting the transsexual with children's story time. I'm here to inform the Board of these illegal and unconstitutional actions by the Director and request the Board rescind any trespass orders against me,



unblock all of the people that have been blocked from the social media sites, write letters apologizing to the victims that were blocked, make restitution for these acts, and create policies and procedures so these actions never happen again. If you would like to take proactive action you the Board you can reach out to my attorney; his name is Richard Salvatore and his phone number is 775-786-5800. Please retain my public comment on the record. Thank you very much.

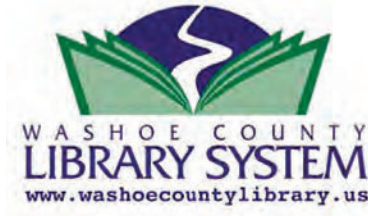
Nichelle Hull

Nichelle Hull, please put my comments into the record. I hope that tonight for a huge change the audio will work during this meeting and the Public's comment will be relayed electronically properly. So I'll be emailing each of you a packet tonight sometime with an article that was written a few weeks ago which lists all the states that have severed their ties to the ALA, the American Library Association, plus the states that are in the process of it. So we all discuss month after month the ALA, which has 80,000 members in 53 Nations and that this body is run by a self-proclaimed Marxist and the issue with the ALA is that they have in their stated policy a statement that says children should be allowed to read anything up to and including the sexually explicit material that we share month after month here which includes homosexual acts, rape, and up to pedophilia. That is the issue, that is the reason why states are severing their ties, and we'd asked multiple occasions from Jeff Scott and this Board to do the same. We are not book burners we're not out in the parking lot lighting up pages, does anybody see that happening out here in your little blue T-shirts? Because that that is not what we're doing. Also there month after month we've brought up the alternative to the ALA, there's the Nevada State Library Association, there's that if you wanted to you know be a part of another layer you could be in that Regional Library Association which is called I think it's called Mountain West I'm going to send you guys the information it's a short two-page form that you can fill out on the internet every single person in here can be a part of that whether you're a trustee retired a student a member of a library or not whether you're a library it has a staggered fee system in the first year is not and that Association has conferences it has professional you know development webinars it has podcasts it has committees it has task force on it has an archive science task force it has a professional development task force so it has everything it has everything except the ick and poop that the Ala wants to put out there and we parents grandparents concerned people of every party we're just responsible we're not we're not crazy we're not ERS of the LGBTQ trans nope no we're not ma'am no we're not we're responsible people who care about the safety of our children there is no reason for you to be passing that garbage out to kids you can move that to a trip XXX store if you want. I mean that's where it belongs.

A ten-minute recess was called at 5:53 p.m.; the meeting was re-convened at 6:03 p.m.

Candace Powell

Thank you for the time. We the three of us are proud patrons of Washoe County Library. This summer we attended several events through our library system; we made a goal to visit every library in the County and we got close, we're only missing a couple including this one, so yay! Our visits were more than just checking out books through the libraries' programs; my daughters pet a baby crocodile at Story Time and embraced the joy of learning; they even participated in Drag Queen Story Hour celebrating diversity in a



space that welcomes everyone with Miss Ginger Divine. When has hate and book banning or opposition to diversity ever been on the right side of history? The answer is never. It never has. History has repeatedly shown us that attempting to restrict knowledge and diversity only leads to regress, not progress; to push to ban books and restrict programs like drag queen Story Hour reflects extremist views that don't represent the vast majority the people who want to ban drag queen Story Hour honestly need more drag queens in their lives they need fun and Whimsy they need positivity and love and acceptance and it pains me to know that some were taught hate when they were once just like my kids and filled with love and light and acceptance and I wish I could go back and give each one a hug mom hug that they need and tell them that it's okay that you're enough that you don't have to tear others down to make yourself feel better the different doesn't equal scary I would tell you to ask questions explore the world be kind and Lead With Love I would tell you that everyone is different and that's what makes life beautiful and these attempts to dictate what should or should not be accessible in our libraries is misguided and dangerous this slippery slope of regressive ideologies is what will lead us to a modern-day Dark Age censorship ignorance and suppression of knowledge have no place in 2023 we cannot allow a small minority to dictate the literary landscape for our entire community now more than ever we must nurture understanding empathy and unity I stand here with my daughters whose names come from a band book and we own most of the books you've mentioned in their short lives we've seen a slip backward my daughters were born with fewer rights than Generations before them when I was in school Coline was the exception and now school shootings are the norm I will not be okay with my daughters being robbed the right to read we fought to ensure we they are here with me I brought them tonight crazy idea I know I want them to know that we fought I want them to know that I fought they come with me to everything because they need to see that we fought to ensure that they inherit a better world a world where diversity is celebrated knowledge is embraced and love triumphs over hate thank you.

Janice Jones

Good evening my name is Janice Jones and I've given the Trustees and the director a copy of my public comment if you can please put that into record. Jeff Scott who currently fills a position of Director of Libraries for Washoe County has now become a liability for Washoe County. Most of the communities saw this occurring as much as two years ago and now we hope you see it too. Jeff Scott is a disappointment and has brought unfavorable attention to the Washoe County libraries in the following ways: formal charges filed against him by citizens in the community, unfavorable HR file, has brought shame and disrespect effect contrary to the favorable profile our library should have, has brought turmoil to trustee meetings with upset communities using the library newsletter to identify and label a Community member with a detrimental political tag. Many people do not want drag queen story hour programs in our libraries; with hundreds of programs in place Jeff Scott could have dropped one that offended so many. We made our voices heard through social media, Board meetings, County Commissioner meetings and even scheduled story hours. We thought Jeff Scott would listen and have an interest in developing programs that were well received by the majority in our community; instead we were met with Jeff Scott's anger and increasing aggressions. He bullies and ridicules the many people who speak against that particular program; he has paid with Library funds persons from an organized LGBTQ group to appear at scheduled



story hours for the purpose of intimidating community members who show up for displeasure about the program. It is clear that drag queen story hour is not just a library program to Jeff Scott, but rather a personal agenda that he is pushing and using the library system to do it. Jeff Scott is being paid to manage library programs; it is not up to Jeff Scott to manage and shape young minds or help people fit into lifestyles. Amazingly people will do that on their own and they have for decades. For the money you are spending, Board you can do better. Before all this anger and aggression escalates or someone gets more hurt than they already have please Library Board of Trustees come to the realization that you need to cut Jeff Scott loose and tell him he can pedal his nightclub act somewhere else, but not in our library.

Val White

Val White; just a reminder to the board about what the First Amendment actually is; it's free speech, free meaning that I can speak to the Board as a whole or individually and I can reference previous speakers' comments. Your definition of respect is just as silly as the Chair's ignorant attempt to remove free speech quoting from the Supreme Court case. Justice William Brennan opined that debate on publication should be uninhibited, robust, and wide open, and said that vehement criticism and even mistakes were part of the price of democracy a society must pay for Freedom. Now let's talk about drag queen story hours, LGB, and queer theory. A previous speaker attempted to state, and quite incorrectly – that the LGBTQ agenda including drag story hour has nothing to do with Marxism. He couldn't be more wrong. To put it simply there is an established battle plan to transform this nation into a socialist state; those who support drag queen story hours are simply ignorant about what it really is about LGBs and Queer Theory have different agendas. The LGB community seeks to normalize their lifestyle even though it's dangerous and unhealthy with their 10 to 15 years shortened life expectancies. Queer Theory seeks to destroy everything that is normalized and a part of the dominant culture. Why? To bring in Marxism. They've clearly stated in published documents that they are different from the LGB agenda; they're actually opposites. Queer theory is activism with a Marxist agenda; queer theory activists use LGBs and their diversity and acceptance propaganda to hide their true destructive agenda. Do those of you who consider yourselves to be LGB allies even know this or understand how you're being played? I believe the term 'useful idiots' may be appropriate. So what does this have to do with drag story hour? The event is marketed as family friendly, it is a friendly way of destroying the sexual and behavioral norms of children at their early ages. Public libraries should not be participating in smoothing the way for Marxism and new communism into our County. No more drag queen story times, it's time Director Jeff Scott hit the road; he's brought nothing but problems to this Library System. I will gladly be here at the December meeting to talk about that. Thank you.

Victoria Myer

I wanted to read from drag pedagogy “The Playful Practice of Queer Imagination in Early Childhood” by H Keenan and Little Miss Hot Mess. This article is collaboratively written by an education scholar and a drag queen. “Drag queen story hour provides a generative extension of clear pedagogy into the world of early childhood education and provides a performative approach to queer pedagogy that is not simply about LGBT lives but living queerly. Drag queens have historically been relegated to the realm of the night. In the past few years however drag performers have made their way from the dimly lit bars of gayborhoods



into the-fluorescent lights of libraries and classrooms. We explore the pedagogical contributions of a program called drag queen story hour as a form of queer imagining in an early childhood context through this program. Drag artists have channeled their penchant for quote reading each other to filth into different forms of literacy promoting storytelling as integral to queer and trans communities as well as positioning queer and transcultural forms as valuable components of early childhood education.” So that said, there's a lot of talk about hate of trans people and all this kind of stuff. That's really not what this is about, it's about adult appropriateness. You wouldn't send your kid to see A Clockwork Orange I don't think – maybe some of you would – or Deep Throat or maybe 50 Shades of Gray, yet in our library we have this book. And this is graphic so if you don't want your ears to hear it or your children to hear it I'm giving you a warning right now because this is not only in five of our high schools, in two of our middle schools, it's also in our library and accessible to kids. Why can we put age limits on movies but you guys want to call us haters for putting age limits on books? I don't get it. (Reading) “He did not wait for an answer and still he did not free Aman's hands. Holding them both in one of his he managed to twist his buttons of his trousers then he guided Aman's fingers to the shaft of him. A noise like a hiss escaped from him as he wrapped Aman's fingers around it. It was hard with wet drips as he moved Aman's hands within his grip up and down, up and down, slowly at first and then faster, with a grunt and a groan and a spasm, so tight the knuckles...” ...whatever.

Emily Stewart

I'm Emily Stewart; I am a queer person. I live in your community. I've lived in Reno almost all my life and I plan to raise my kids here too. Love you, my parents are here too, they're watching me do this. So I'm here to support drag story time because I am a caring person in our community and I'm also a business owner of a mental health field style business. I need programs like this to recommend to my clients who are families with kids who are LGBTQ+. They need these resources to feel heard, understood, and to express joy. Libraries are public facilities and should represent the diversity of our communities as a public space. We need clear role models. We need diversity, not just tolerating it, accepting it or allowing it. It needs to be celebrated so the joys of this experience may be passed down for generations to come. Do we want a legacy of celebrating diversity, engaging in it and exploring it, of reflecting the beautiful sparkling cacophony of life in our community? Or the alternative is keeping queer kids isolated and miserable, hidden away and desperate, feeding into the tragic statistics of mental, physical, and spiritual crises that exist in our community. As a mental health practitioner, I see this firsthand. We need representation, we need visibility, to prevent mental health crises. Nobody is asking anyone in this room to change your values or your political affiliations just to extend empathy to persons who are committed to full expressions of joy in our diverse community. If you don't want your kids to experience drag storytelling don't bring them to that particular event. There are many other wonderful opportunities to explore literature with children in our Public Library System; you don't need to shut us down to enjoy it. Just bring them to something that aligns with your values. Have empathy for different experiences – that's all we're asking. I don't want porn in the library either; that's something you can agree on, but drag queen storytelling is not porn, it's a celebration of a diverse lifestyle. As a queer person, talk to me, I'd love to



explain why I use pronouns. I'd love to explain why being fair is so amazing and so much more fun than not being fair. Talk to me about it; I work with families, I work with parents, I work with kids, I work with people exploring their identities, and that's why this is so important in our community, so that there's an outlet for this and a really positive way of bringing it into our community. It's not scary, it's fun. Just go to one! It's so fun – experience the joy. Thank you.

Marie Reynolds

I am a wife, married 40 years and I'm straight. I am a mother, I'm a grandmother of school age grandchildren, and I am a voter, and I am concerned with the behavior of many here. I respect the law including NRS 241.110 regarding open meeting law as well as Robert's Rules of Order. I also respect the Constitution we all know how the Preamble reads We the People of the United States in order to form a more perfect union establish justice ensure domestic tranquility provide for the common defense promote the general welfare and security and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity to ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America it is for all Americans and not all Americans are raised the same we don't have the same experiences we do not have the same income education Faith or spirituality goals or dreams we are individuals and none of us have the right to impose our beliefs or conscience on others we all however should make it our goal to be a responsible and beautiful Citizen and they should include the qualities of courtesy respect self-discipline and tolerance Chair Perez has asked all of us several times to cease side conversations when someone is making public comment and it is disrespectful and disruptive to not keep quiet and let that person speak NRS 20309 States everyone who without authority of law shall willfully who without authority of law shall willfully disturb any assembly or meeting not unlawful in its character shall be guilty of a misdemeanor I had several times where I could not hear the speaker because of the S conversations going on around me and that was that's not right the person who's speaking up here has the right to have their say without having to try to listen over somebody else making comment that whether they agree or disagree and it's a misdemeanor if it gets to out of hand like it did earlier look if somebody's against drag Story Hour then don't bring your kids or grand kids to it simple as that you don't have the right to impose your beliefs on somebody else who's okay with it that if you're against certain BS being on the shows don't read them or don't allow your kids to read them. Simple. Thank you.

Wayne Cates

Wayne Cates; I was at this forum last year, first one, I stood up and spoke in public. This is the second time I've stood up and spoke in public. I attended drag story hours. Mr. Scott you remember me, we were demanded that we not enter the property with our tents to protect citizens that were there protesting against drag queen story time. I remember that when I remind you this is our property not yours. You let us go but I was constantly shadowed as I walked through the library, shadowed. You hate us, you hate us, you hate us, you just hate us, you just don't like this lifestyle. I walked over the little kids table and said hey you got anything for a female who's military who's gay? That's my daughter, I have nothing against the lifestyle, but when you start indoctrinating two to five year old kids I have a problem with that. I was told countless times that Library this is all voluntary. Someone explain to me how you can get a two to five year old kid to volunteer. Why is it parents want your kids to speak to someone like me if I do shady stuff, do drugs or I do acts that you would never want to see and yet you want your kids to be exposed.



Joe McCoony

Joe McCoony for the record. I wasn't going to speak tonight but I got pretty disturbed. Sick and tired would be a better way to describe it, about people talking about censoring and restricting books. Those of us who want to have our children raised in a normal manner are not Banning books not burning books not restricting books we believe in age appropriate access to books you can't drink before you're 18 or 21 depending on the state you can't own a firearm in some states anymore until you're 21 you can't drive till you're 16 or 18 in some states there's age appropriateness based on the development of the brain and the emotions so that's my big thing and to call us extreme drag king queen Story Hour is extreme, that's extreme sexuality that doesn't belong in a library or a school. I used to love to watch it abroad okay but it's, you know, I was a high school student by then and there's a lot of things that can be done when you're 16 or 18 that don't belong in the two to five year age bracket my brother's he's been married to his husband his partner for 15 years they're a wonderful couple but I don't want that lifestyle imposed on young children let them discover on their own as time goes by as a mature that's all I have to say thank you.

Janice Smith

I don't have any formal speech prepared I would like to start off with Mr. Scott you're very smart a very smart man. Communists tend to be very smart you guys have been infiltrating our institutions for a very long time very quietly making very slow changes that nobody tends to notice I'm just recently waking up to what's going on here and I would argue that being okay with drag queen Story Hour and pornographic materials available to children in their schools and public libraries is not a majority opinion every parent that I talk to is not okay with that and I would just like to counter that if you don't want your children if you would like to have your children go to a Drag Queen story are if you would like to have them look at genitalia in a book or read about sex when they're very young you are more than welcome to do that at home okay nobody is stopping you from perverting your children okay what I would like to also say is that it just seems that the goal of drag queen Story Hour and having sexualized content available to Children is to destroy to destroy children what a better way to do that than to expose them to sex at a very young age I mean do you not understand what that does just a bunch of Communists.

Bri Schmidt

My name is Bri Schmidt I work with Silver State Equality and I'm sorry to make it in person I just want to say thank you everybody for your time to be here and I and our organization is looking forward to the diversity equity and inclusion programs that the library has put forth this year there were a lot of fun programs they were really enjoyable to be at and we're looking forward to what the library has in store for 2024 that's it thank you.

Cena Lloyd

Library Trustees, Chair, thank you for the opportunity to give public comment tonight. My name is Cena Lloyd and I'm a community member and Washoe County Library card holder. As a librarian and former Library director I am here to speak in support of the included County Library collection development and management policy. Policies such as these exist to ensure services to the entire community and not to a



specific group or in service of a specific group's beliefs as the quote goes a truly Great Library contains something in it to offend everyone Joe Goodwin. I am so sure of this that I know that there is at least one if not multiple books collected in Washoe County Libraries as well as libraries all over Nevada that I might find offensive for myself or my family Choice privacy and freedom I encourage each trustee to consider these core values when considering the decisions before you everyone has a choice of what to read everyone has the Privacy to read what they will and in America everyone has the freedom to do so I hope that you approve the included collection development and management policy and of course continue to allow staff to collect something to offend everyone thank you.

Zoe (last name not captured)

I just wanted to speak in support of the inclusion in diverse population and programming that's included at the library I'm really disappointed to see that our community members are not in supportive of including other people from our communities and frankly I've heard more porn here in this meeting than I have a drag queen Story Hour so I think we need to figure out what we can do as a community to meet the needs of everyone while including people not excluding them thank you.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a) Approval of Minutes from the Library Board Meeting of October 18, 2023 [For Possible Action]

Reva Crump

I wanted to thank the board very much for including our comments; we've been asking for this for more than a year and not just pumped into someone was for and someone was against was greatly noted and appreciate it that you heard us and our comments were included that's all I wanted to do thank you.

Val White

Just like to say that I appreciate the longer minutes and the reason why is because I've listened to these meetings sometimes at home and the sound system is so bad you can barely hear it. Even this sound system in this room right now it's not sufficient. I've been to other Library meetings too and the sound system is not sufficient I don't know why this meeting can't be held in a venue with the professional adequate sound system I mean why aren't you using like Middle School where they have great sound systems or use the County Chamber someplace because without the adequate sound system and the abbreviated minutes it's impossible to know what's going on at these meetings so either make the minutes verbatim not paraphrase there's plenty of AI programs out there that can do it for you without a large commitment of Staff time or hold it in a venue where it's more professional thank you.

Bruce Parks

I too would like to express my appreciation for the inclusion of the public comment as it appeared on these minutes that you're about to approve because I have no doubt you're going to approve I would like to state that when it comes to the public comment yes we do have the right as Citizens to speak our



minds here I would every time I hear somebody say I have a constitutional right one of my pet peeves. I teach a class on the Constitution every week you have no constitutional rights there's no such thing what you have are God-given rights that are protected by the Constitution just wanted to clear that up when NRS 241 it specifically states that this supplemental material and this will come up under your one of the other agenda items about the bylaw but supplemental material has to be made available at the same time that the agenda is made available and again who does we had that information at the same time that is not then what we're used to so I'm sure you can understand our surprise and our appreciation and make no mistake we the people do appreciate it when we are heard and you take us seriously you have no idea how much support you garner when you do that we appoint civilians to our boards and committees so that we have a modicum of civilian oversight on our government entities when it comes to making public comment and then it being recorded properly indicates to you the people that you're doing your jobs thank you.

Will Purchert

I actually researched the NRS regarding the minute taking and contrary to people who have said that you have to record things verbatim which is really a waste of taxpayer dollars it says the substance of the remarks made by any member in general who addresses the public body, that person can submit a copy of their remarks for inclusion. So it's up to them, it shouldn't be on you, and if there's concern about taxpayer dollars that should be one place they look. Thank you.

On motion by Trustee Lea Moser, seconded by Trustee Ann Silver, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the minutes of the Library Board Meeting of October 18, 2023.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Presentation and Discussion: Washoe County Library Tax Renewal Plan by Library Director Jeff Scott [Non-Action Item]

Director Scott reviewed the Washoe County Library Tax Renewal Plan, a copy of which was provided within the Board packet.



b) Review and Possible Revision of Library Board of Trustee Bylaws [For Possible Action]

This agenda item was tabled by Chair Perez.

c) Review and Approve: Collection Development Policy Presentation by Debi Stears, Library Collection Development Manager [For Possible Action]

This agenda item was tabled by Chair Perez.

d) Review and Approve: Interlibrary Loan Policy Presentation by Debi Stears, Library Collection Development Manager [For Possible Action]

Bruce Parks

Thank you Mr chairman, Bruce parks for the record. I think it's a great policy hold people accountable if they actually do damage a book they need be paid for it if the book is overdue there should be a f Associated that way spend my entire life whenever I checked out a book from the library that I used when I was growing up if I didn't get back on time I incur the fine and if I didn't pay that fine in a timely manner well I lost my library prison as it should be but I would caution this board to make sure that what constitutes damage is very specific not subjective don't use any ambiguous language in your policy because when you do that you open yourself up you don't need that make sure there specificity as previous speaker informed us all tonight putting bookmarks in a book I don't believe damages that book and I would challenge anybody to show me how a bookmark now I have very specific bookmarks that I use I read a lot but yeah they could damage a book but I would never use one of them with a book that I don't own however a slip of paper is a bookmark damaging a book oh my gosh was that book withdrawn from circulation was it damaged so bad that you know it had to be replaced no that's why I caution you in your policies please be specific I agree if the book is damaged beyond the point where it can't be in circulation you you broke it you bought it way it should work least be very specific

Nichelle Hull

Nichelle H for the record my public comment is also specific to this item because Bruce Foster um a County resident um with a library card was denied any kind of um appeal process from this board of trust he repeatedly emailed Jeff Scott and the trustees and others regarding having his library card yanked and why was it yanked because he put slips of paper was it six slips of paper in a book um that was full of naughty stuff in the children's area what was on those slips of paper scripture so apparently scripture is far worse than what was in that book we're not going to remove the book but we're gonna remove Bruce Foster's ability to check out a book because he put slips of paper six slips of paper in a book and Jeff Scott's email to Bruce Foster was the book is damaged Beyond use the book is damaged and because you have damaged one of our books you now have your library card yanked that's what



Director Jeff Scott does okay and he works in the dark apparently with Debbie Stears because Debbie just got and said hey this has all been received public comments ready to go it's done it's done no none of us have given public comment on this this change on the item 6b whatever that was so anyways that's my public comment it kind of echoes Bruce Parks thank you.

Valerie Fiannaca

Valerie Fiannaca for the record I would like to do a shout out to Ms. Stears I have found her to be one of the most likable decent human beings on the planet we don't agree on most anything but we can carry on a conversation for an hour without slinging names without killing each other now we still like each other I think she does a great job I think she probably should be your PR person just thank you.

Victoria Myer

I also want to address the comment about Debbie Stears made and did all you're a lovely going to sit and chat with and have good conversations but her comment about damaged books and collecting fees for that and all but Mr Foster got this library card hold for a year and the policy the conduct policy noted was number five damage destruction of Library property including not to mention furniture or I can't read the last thing is prohibited so but it doesn't say anything about putting slips of paper in a book warranting have library book library card taken away for a year and Mr Foster deserves a hearing on his appeal on this item because there is no basis for that removal of his Library cards's comment about damages the books and it didn't seem to be super consequential I'm sure it's a sad day when a library book is lost but that's not the case when it comes to Mr Foster so I would ask you all to consider hearing his appeal thank you.

Janice Jones

I think I'm going to reformat my question to Mr Parks as rather a suggestion. I think what's missing that what happened to Mr Foster stays intact and in place what's missing is that you need to make an addition to the policy that any piece of paper found in the book henceforward will be deemed a bookmark and the bar room shall be punished to the full extent of the law.

William Puchert

William Puchert for the record and I just wanted to say I want to get that Patrick Stewart kind of big such. I would just advise the board this defacing the book today could lead to book burning tomorrow my and retire librarian and I just wanted to clarify that we're not talking about the policy of people paying fines and losing cards on books that are damaged that belong to this Library this is an Interlibrary Loan policy that's being changed and it seems totally reasonable and the other libraries would be the ones that would decide whether a book is damaged and charge the person or in this case the library, just wanted to clarify that; thank you.

On motion by Trustee Al Rogers, seconded by Trustee Lea Moser, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the Interlibrary Loan Policy Presentation by Debi Stears, Library Collection Development Manager.



7. REPORTS

- a) Library Financial Report and Donations by Director Jeff Scott and Development Officer Jamie Hemingway [Non-Action Item]

Director Scott reviewed the Library Financial and Donations Reports, copies of which were provided within the Board packet.

- b) Library Statistical Report by Director Jeff Scott [Non-Action Item]

Director Scott reviewed the Library Statistical Report, a copy of which was provided within the Board packet.

- c) North Valleys Library Presentation [Non-Action Item]

Branch Manager Jonnica Bowen presented the North Valleys Library Report, a copy of which was provided within the Board packet.

- d) Book Team Report: KUNR On the Shelf/On the Kids Shelf Partnership Presentation by KUNR and Rebecca Reed, Jennifer Cole, Méla Garcia [Non-Action Item]

Librarians Rebecca Reed, Jennifer Cole, and Méla Garcia presented the KUNR Book Team Report, a copy of which was provided within the Board packet.

8. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

None



9. BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Lea Moser asked whether Wi-Fi was available at libraries after hours. Director Scott confirmed but stated he would also verify.

Vice Chair Gianna Jacks stated she had attended the National Library Association (NLA) conference and complimented the event. She shared suggestions she had observed from other libraries at the conference. She wanted the opportunity to discuss more library policies and had questions regarding the Korn Ferry study recently implemented by Washoe County Human Resources, web issues, the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) bus route, library kiosk usage, and Book a Librarian attendance. She praised the diversity of the library's book collection and stressed the importance of neutrality. She wanted to see more information on services for homeschoolers and library partnerships, and also wanted to ensure the Board was responding to concerns from the public.

Chair Frank Perez thanked everyone for attending, recognized local author Marie Rodriguez, discussed Trustee Moser's Fun Run Fundraiser idea, and called for respect at Library Board meetings.

Trustee Al Rogers praised North Valleys Branch Manager Jonnica Bowen and her staff for hosting the Library Board meeting. He stated he had also attended the NLA and praised the conference, thanking staff for opportunity to attend. He wanted to discuss all library policies before introducing new ones and review financial and statistical reports ahead of the next reporting period.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Frank Perez adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.