



LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, August 21, 2024

5:30 P.M.

Sierra View Library

4001 S Virginia St, Reno, NV 89502

0) Salute to the Flag

1) Roll Call [Non-Action Item]

Board Members Present: Ann Silver, Chair
Tami Ruf, Vice Chair
Gianna Jacks, Board Trustee
Leah Moser, Board Trustee (Via Zoom)

Board Members Absent: Al Rogers, Board Member

County Staff Present: Jeff Scott, Library Director
Herb Kaplan, Assistant District Attorney

2) Public Comment – Three Minute Time Limit Per Person [Non-Action Item] No discussion or action by the Board may be taken upon any matter raised under this public comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.

1. Mark Pritchard: Thanked the library and staff and looks forward to future programs.
2. Joni Hammond: Spoke on the event she attended and was not treated well when she was trying to be at the event.
3. Sandee Tibbett: Spoke on her opposition for drag queen story event. Would like to see the event held at another place and not the library.

4. William Puchert: Spoke on the cancellation to drag queen story hour was saddened that the event was cancelled.
5. Cate Salim: Thanked the library for helping the Gold Ranch fire. Congratulated the new board elect.
6. Bruce Parks: Would like to see more dialog among the public and the Trustees.
7. Tara De Quiroz: Wanted to send out positive vibes to the library and staff. The library has wonderful services and staff.
8. Kristen Ryan: Wanted to share her prospectives on the suspensions.
9. Naseem Jamnia: Showed her support to library staff and Trustees. Spoke on the WC1 tax initiative renewal.
10. Drew Ribar: Spoke on the Supreme Court free speech. There should be no restrictions to speech. Drag queen story hour should not be cancelled. The cancellation is a cover up.
11. Janet Butcher: Loves the library. Would not send a child to the library now due to inappropriate books being on the shelves.
12. Victoria Myer: Wanted to see where the policy was that states you can have a private event at a publicly funded library. Tons of videos available of the bullying and battery toward the public by library staff and Director.
13. Val White: Was surprised by the comment made by the Chair at the beginning of the meeting. The Supreme Court states that the freedom of speech is not to be changed by anyone. Spoke on the suspension of the patrons.
14. Brooke Maylar (Via Zoom): Spoke on the conduct of the patrons who are going to be considered for suspension from library. Appeals must be denied by the Board.
15. Bob Blackstock: Thanked the Board for a fantastic service and thanked library staff for wonderful work.
16. Stacey Spain: Thanked library staff for hard work and dedication. Spoke on the drag queen story event. Enjoys checking out books at the mobile van.

17. Ursula Bennet: Was not happy that someone was called a terrorist. Video is tangible evidence of the lies told by library staff. Lying is not ok for now or the future.

18. Reva Crump (via Zoom): Spoke on the attendance of the Board via Zoom. The bylaws are not being followed.

3) Board Comment [Non-Action Item] – Limited to Announcements, Strategic Plan Activity, Updates or Issues Proposed for Future Agendas and/or Workshops

Chair Silver: Announced change in Board meeting times to 5:30 to allow better access for working people.

Vice Chair Tami Ruf: Thanked Al Rogers for his service to the board. Welcomed the new trustee Rodriguez and thank you to Northwest Reno and Verdi Library for help with fire evacuees.

Chair Silver: Reiterated her thank you for library staff helping with fire evacuees.

Trustee Jacks: Questions about comments and complaints about trustee attendance at meetings. Asking for clarification about this issue. Director Scott clarified that it was stated in the bylaws as encouraged but not required. Jacks did not acknowledge that this answered her question and was asked to consult with Herb and the Director for further discussion.

4) Approval of Meeting Minutes a) Approval of Minutes from the Library Board Meeting of July 17, 2024 [For Possible Action]

Vice Chair Ruf made a motion to approve the minutes.

Trustee Jacks seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Vote was unanimously approved by the present board members.

5) Old Business [Non-Action Item]

None

6) New Business a) Discussion and Possible Action on Appeal of the denial of a proposed constitution event submitted by Bruce Parks. Library-cooperative events must meet these criteria: 1) In alignment with the Strategic Plan, the presenter must demonstrate knowledge, expertise, and experience in the particular subject matter; 2) The desired dates for the presentation must be acceptable to the Library; 3) Resources required, including publicity and corresponding collateral may be shared and will be agreed upon well in advance of the event; and, 4) The Library will provide the opportunity to present differing

viewpoints. Each presenting group will have equal access and equal rights. The applicant will have 5 minutes to present the case in support of the appeal. [For Possible Action]

Bruce Parks presented information about his submittal and correspondence with the library concerning his program submission. He expressed his concern about the timeline of correspondence and about the subsequent denial of his program submission.

Vice Chair Ruf made a motion to direct the Library Policy Committee to revisit/revise the Library Events Policy including calendar specificities regarding responses to an applicant.

Chair Silver added that it be presented at the next meeting.

Trustee Jacks seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 4 to 0.

b) Discussion and Possible Action on Appeal of the Suspension of Sandie Tibbit from all Washoe County Libraries. The Library will be given 5 minutes to present the case in support of the denial/suspension. The person appealing will then be given 5 minutes to present his/her case in support of the appeal [For Possible Action]

Stacy McKenzie, Assistant Library Director, spoke in support of upholding the suspension of Sandee Tibbett.

Sandee Tibbett spoke to appeal her one-year suspension from the Washoe County Public Libraries.

The Library board discussed the issue and asked questions of Tibbett, McKenzie and Bowen.

Trustee Jacks presented a motion to uphold the suspension but to end said suspension as of midnight on the dates of this board meeting, 8/21/24 with a provision that this would serve as a warning from the board.

Trustee Moser seconded the motion.

Motion passed with a vote of 3 to 1. Trustee Ruf voted in opposition to the motion.

c) Discussion and Possible Action on Appeal of the Suspension of Drew Ribar from all Washoe County Libraries. The Library will be given 5 minutes to present the case in support of the denial/suspension. The person appealing will then be given 5 minutes to present his/her case in support of the appeal [For Possible Action]

Stacy McKenzie, Assistant Library Director spoke in support of upholding the suspension of Drew Ribar.

Meeting was recessed briefly at 7:16 pm for a disturbance outside the meeting room doors.

Meeting resumed at 7:20 pm.

Drew Ribar spoke to appeal his one-year suspension from the Washoe County Public Libraries.

The Library board discussed the issue and asked questions of Ribar, McKenzie and Bowen.

Trustee Moser made a motion to deny the appeal and uphold the suspension for the full one-year term for Mr. Ribar.

Trustee Ruf seconded the motion.

Motion passed with a vote of 3 to 1. Trustee Jacks voted in opposition to the motion.

d) Discussion and Possible Action on Appeal of the Suspension of Fred Myer from all Washoe County Libraries. The Library will be given 5 minutes to present the case in support of the denial/suspension. The person appealing will then be given 5 minutes to present his/her case in support of the appeal [For Possible Action]

Jonnica Bowen, Branch Manager of North Valleys Library, spoke in support of upholding the suspension of Fred Myer.

Fred Myer spoke to appeal his one-year suspension from the Washoe County Public Libraries.

The Library board discussed the issue and asked questions of Myer, McKenzie and Bowen.

Chair Silver called for a recess at 8:33 pm.

Meeting resumed at 8:40 pm.

Trustee Jacks proposed a motion to uphold the suspension but to end said suspension as of midnight on the dates of this board meeting, 8/21/24.

Trustee Moser seconded the motion.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 4 to 0.

7) Reports

a) Library Director Update by Director Jeff Scott [Non-Action Item]

Director Scott presented info about the library servicing as an evacuation site, cancelling of Drag Story Hour, a planned memorial for Al Stoas, the ribbon cutting

for the Housing Services kiosk at the Downtown Reno Library, expansion of legal kiosks, introduction of new trustee Marie Rodriguez, Tax Renewal updates, new Explorer for library events and ARPA project completions at many libraries.

b) Sierra View Library Presentation by Library Branch Manager Sarah Jaeck [Non-Action Item]

Branch Manager Sarah Jaeck report. Talked about updates since renovation, Storytimes with special guest County Manager Brown, Lego Camps, DIA – Maya Soleil and Tsurunokai special performances and various other library programs. Jaeck also talked about updates for the Duncan Trainer and Gerlach libraries.

8) Staff Announcements [Non-Action Item] No discussion or action may be taken upon any matter raised under this comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.

None

9) Public Comment – Two Minute Time Limit Per Person [Non-Action]

Ending Public Comment:

1. Janet Butcher: Thanked the board for returning the end public comment to the public. Spoke on the suspension of the patrons.
2. Victoria Myer: Protested that her husband has been treated unfairly due to him not doing anything wrong.
3. Drew Ribar: Voiced his opinion on the violence from staff to patrons and the suspensions made.
4. Stacy McKenzie: Thanked the board for acting on the suspensions. Spoke on the crimes that are being blamed on the library and staff. Has a policy where doors are to be kept closed for safety reasons.
5. Val White: Worked for large corporations in the past. The disciplinary action taken was serious by these companies. Library staff is not telling the truth on what happened.
6. Fred Myer: Granddaughter was the little child that was locked in the library. Feels the report from the library staff is not true and the suspension should be lifted.

7. Cate Salim: Disappointed in the board for lack of support for the library staff and librarians.
8. Tara De Quiroz: Echoed what Cate stated in her comment.