

Great Falls Public Library
Board of Trustees
Tuesday, April 21, 2014
4:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Mitch Tropila, Ms. Mary Brinkley, Ms. MaryEllen Kropp, Ms. Judy Riesenber, and Ms. Dea Nowell

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Kathy Mora and Ms. Korri Shupe.

GUESTS PRESENT: None.

Ms. Riesenber called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

I. CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Tropila moved and Ms. Brinkley seconded the motion to approve the consent items as presented. MOTION . . . passed unanimously.

II. OPERATING VOUCHERS

Ms. Nowell moved and Ms. Brinkley seconded the motion to approve the consent items as presented. MOTION . . . passed unanimously.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Mora began by congratulating Mitch for receiving the 2014 MLA Champion Award from the State of Montana Library Association. The award is given to a legislator who champions the cause of MLA and the libraries it supports. Mitch's work on increasing state aid to public libraries during the last session was a success and is appreciated by all.

This board packet contains the current By-laws of the Great Falls Public Library Board of Trustee. Ms. Mora asked if there are any revisions or suggestions to improve them. It was suggested by the board to change the attendance language to read, *A board member who misses more than one third of the regular meetings in a calendar year without a health, medical or valid excused absence shall lose his or her status as a board member.* This would be appropriate for this current board with one of the member's being a State Legislator and needing to gone for the length of the session. Kathy also will insert the purpose of the board, *Oversee the Library polices and operations including book polices and service to the City, County, and Pathfinder Federation of Libraries,* and will insert it before Article 1. Ms. Kropp was curious about how we handle changes of meeting dates. Ms. Mora explained we notify City Offices and then they change it on the City Calendar, (which is posted on the City's webpage). Ms. Mora will make the suggested changes and get the By-laws updated and to the board.

We have 4 completed Little Free Libraries in the garage. Shelly Kelly's husband, owner of Kelly Signs, built one and donated to the library, which gives us an extra one to put in a park.

We are reviewing some of our fees and will be bringing you suggestions at May's board meeting for increases in certain areas. We have a very tight budget this year and we want to be sure that we are covering costs that certain services incur. The City will again only be giving us \$350,000

from the general fund, which is \$100,000 less than what we had received in the years prior to FY2014. We are looking at the real possibility of having to close Sundays and Mondays for FY2015. Mr. Tropila asked if it was only the SME settlement or is there more to the budget problems. Ms. Mora explained SME is a large part of it, but also our revenues have not been keeping pace with our rising expenses. Mr. Tropila stated we need to let the public know that even though the Library Foundation has received several large donations this past year those do not go directly to us. Those donations go to the foundation and usually have restrictions on what the funds can be used for and are not typically operational costs of the library. The board asked what other departments are also being cut general fund money. We don't know but we know that all departments have been told to make a budget with no more expenses than they had in the previous budget.

Ms. Mora asked if the Library Board had received their invitations to the May 2nd reception that the Library Foundation is hosting here at the library.

The Library Board has put together a team for the upcoming Word Meister Contest; our board's team name is *Check Us Out*. There are seven teams competing this year.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

V. BOARD REPORTS

Ms. Brinkley noticed in the Director's Report that our next board meeting is listed as May 21, but we verified that is incorrect, and it's on May 19.

Mr. Tropila asked how the updating of the computers is going. Ms. Mora said they are almost complete.

Mr. Tropila congratulated Ms. Mora for receiving the ELSA award.

Ms. Brinkley asked about the workers comp we now have to pay on our volunteers. Ms. Mora said it's being done City wide and highly encouraged to reduce liability on each department.

Ms. Brinkley notice on stats how well the Kids Place programs are attended and was really pleased to see that.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. PROPOSALS FROM TRUSTEES

IX. REPORTS FROM OTHERS

X. ADJORNMENT AT 5:15 P.M.