

Wasco County Library Service District
Board meeting
August 15, 2023
Location: The Dalles, and via Zoom

Board members attending: Corliss Marsh, Mary Beechler, Tina Coleman, Rita Rathkey, Dave Mason

Library staff attending: Jeff Wavrunek, Rita Squires, Valerie Stephenson (via Zoom)

Meeting called to order: 1:04 p.m.

Minutes: Tina Coleman moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Rita Rathkey, the vote was unanimous

Visitors and interested parties: Phil Brady, County Commissioner

Director's Reports:

Dufur – (Sarah not here, report sent via email) Summer reading went really well this year. Participants really enjoyed the different programs and I had a record breaking turn out for events. Rita, Valerie and I had a quick email about next year's plans and we all agreed that Rita did a great job coordinating performers and are making loose plans for next year.

The school campus was used for a fire camp in early July. This made a couple of weeks of programs a little difficult but we learned to be flexible.

The Museum of Natural and Cultural History Oregon Dino exhibit will be showing up sometime this week. The library and The Ranger Pride Education Foundation partnered for this event. They paid for it and the library is hosting it. We will also include this as a family activity in the back to school bash.

The library is part of the school cooling shelters this week.

Maupin – Have finished summer reading; had 67 kids signed up, had a different entertainer each week. Prize drawings have been done. Reptile guy, Museum of Natural and Cultural History, and Night Out, were all huge events.

Valerie has been participating with LIOLA, with MaryKay Dahlgren as her mentor; it has been fantastic. They've been meeting via Zoom, and will meet once in person.

Watercolor classes have started. For the Maupin Reads they have 50 books, and will have the author event on Saturday, September 9th.

The library is a cooling station this week due to excessive heat. Had a patron order, via interlibrary loan, LGBTQ books. This patron has stated that it was to keep these books out of the hands of kids. Valerie canceled the holds, and explained to the patron that it was not appropriate to keep books belonging to other libraries. Patron was informed of this, and that it was not the proper procedure when challenging books. This particular patron has been banned from the City Hall portion of the building for brandishing a weapon; however, will still be allowed in the library. The Board asked if she was concerned about repercussions; she responded that she has not felt threatened, but does have an emergency button under her desk, if necessary.

The Dalles – Have just filled one of the two open positions, the new staffer just started yesterday. The Programming and Outreach Coordinator position interviews were held yesterday, there were lots of really good applicants. Summer reading has wrapped up, with a final party held last week at City Park.

Staff is planning fall programs; the Community Read event this fall will be *The Graveyard Book*, culminating with a discussion at a local cemetery.

Old business: Jeff has met with the City Manager regarding replacing the carpet; because the new Maintenance Manager is on leave, the responsibility has been given back to Jeff. The Board had a couple of suggestions for Jeff to contact for quotes. Regarding the steps to the upper parking lot, someone came to give a quote; in addition, Jeff has talked to a landscaper regarding giving a quote, that would include new landscaping of that area. The backup hard drive for the security camera overheated, smelled like something was burning in backroom. The entire library was shut down for about 4 hours, PUD sent out a team to work on the problem.

The latest update on the van is that the company is having trouble getting the chassis, it probably will not be finished until end of April 2024.

The new curbside book drop has been ordered, should be here soon.

Dave Mason asked about the election of officers, which usually takes place at the July meeting, but didn't this year as there was no meeting. After a brief discussion, it was decided to vote at the end of today's meeting.

Mary Beechler brought up the IGA, mentioning the supporting documents used by other service districts, such as Clackamas County. They clarified everything between the district and each city involved. There is not an IGA with Dufur or Maupin; perhaps what is needed is a MOU, not an IGA? Something in writing that clarifies what the district provides each library, so that everyone involved knows what is being provided. This discussion needs to be continued later, on the 28th at the IGA work session.

New business: Signage – the library needs to put up more directional signage, which we would pay for, so that people looking for the library can find us; such as having one as you come out of the roundabout. It was suggested that someone needs to check as to

proper size and placement, before any are ordered. Corliss mentioned that the Library Foundation should be approached for help with funding for the signs, as well as an informational sign for the London planetree out front.

Election for chair and vice chair – after a brief discussion, Rita Rathkey made the motion to nominate Tina Coleman as chairman, with Corliss Marsh as vice chairman; this was seconded by Dave Mason. Both Tina and Corliss agreed to accept the positions, and the vote was unanimous.

Financial report: no comments

Statistics: Regarding circulation statistics, the Board is curious about what other similar sized libraries in Oregon report. It was mentioned that all the different events we offer, especially the big programs, bring in a lot of people, who then end up checking out items.

A reminder that the Friends of the Library book sale is on August 26th, they are promoting it as a “back to school” sale. It will, again, be a bag sale. For members of the Friends, they can purchase one bag, and get one for free.

There was discussion regarding meeting days and times, with the decision being made to change the meetings to the first Tuesday of the month, at 4:00. (This decision was later changed, as statistical information and financial reports would not be available this early in the month. The Board meetings will remain at 4:00 on the third Tuesday of the month.)

The September 19th meeting will be held in The Dalles; October’s in Maupin, and November’s in Dufur. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

WASCO COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tina Coleman, Chairman

Corliss Marsh, Vice Chairman

Rita Rathkey, Board Member

Mary Beechler, Board Member

Dave Mason, Board Member