



Lewistown Public Library’s Mission Statement:

“The Lewistown Public Library provides free and equal access to quality materials and services, which fulfill the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the entire community.”

1:30 PM Call to order -- roll call – Regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was called to order by Mary Frieze. Members present: Mary Frieze, Cathy Moser, Jean Collins, Mariah Shammel, Arlene Mari, Gayle Doney. Director: Alissa Wolenetz. Library Staff: Brittney Uecker.

Appoint Recorder of Minutes: Brittney Uecker

Reading of the Mission Statement: Gayle.

Revisions to the Agenda:

- Discussion with the public moved to top of agenda.

Discussion with the Public:

- Cecilia Renaldi expressed concern about several specific materials in the Youth department. She was given a Statement of Concern form and advised to fill it out for the items of concern and return it to Alissa for her and the Board to review.

Disposition of Minutes:

- Mike Meloy’s name was misspelled on page 5 of the February 17, 2022 minutes and will be corrected.
- Jean moved to approve the February 17, 2022 regular meeting minutes as corrected, Gayle 2nd. All in favor.

Financial Reports:

- Library is not close to reaching the appropriated amount for personnel costs, so wage savings should be expected for this year.
- Mariah moved to approve February claims, Jean 2nd. All in favor.

Director’s Report:

- Youth Programming:
 - Q&A with roboticist Talbot Morris-Downing went well and had five attendants. He is interested in participating in programming again.
 - The Library received a \$1000 programming grant from Penguin Random House to be used for a STEM camp program this summer
 - All staff attended Youth Mental Health First Aid Training on March 7 at HRDC and are now certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid.
 - Youth patrons are enjoying using the Wii for video games after school.
- Adult Programming:
 - In-person programs with Humanities Montana have resumed. Chris La Tray is scheduled to present on March 24 and Lailani Upham on April 7.
 - There has been a lot of interest in the Welcome to Lewistown Book Discussion group. The next meeting will be on March 22 and participants will discuss “Crazy Mountain Kiss” by Keith McCafferty.
 - Lewistown Training and Education Coalition met on March 15 to establish a mission statement and participate in a needs survey for Extension. Alissa also presented to the Central MT Association of School Superintendents.
- Other:
 - All City staff completed harassment training this week at the City office.
 - The South Central Federation meeting will take place virtually on March 22. Mary F. will attend.
 - Statistics for circulation and total patrons are up this month.

Communications:

Friends of the Library: (Arlene)

- The March Book Sale brought in \$792. Memberships have brought in over \$3600 so far this year. FOL also received a \$400 donation for the bathroom renovation.
- FOL voted that they will not prohibit booksellers from attending book sales but they are developing a mission statement and regulations that prohibit the use of scanning devices at book sales.

City Commission: (Gayle)

- Extension Office is holding a community needs event at the Eagles on March 22.
- Gayle will meet with the City Manager on March 18 to discuss the agenda for the March 21 City Commission meeting and the MMIA decision on insurance coverage for libraries, as well as parameters for libraries to buy coverage back.
- The Board will not issue a response on the MMIA recommendation or the City’s proposed changes to the MOU until MMIA releases a statement on their decision, scheduled for March 18.

Continuing Business:

- Board discussed whether to let the current MOU run out until its expiration on June 30 or to terminate early. Mike Meloy was present via phone.
 - Board was advised not to terminate and to instead continue with the MOU currently in place until an agreement is worked out between the City and the Board in negotiations. Termination of the MOU would have to be in writing.
 - In the case of termination of the MOU or its expiration on June 30, funding from the City for personnel costs would have to be negotiated at budget time each year. Operations costs are already funded through other sources (county contributions, endowments, and donations).
- Board will respond to the City in writing after MMIA has made a decision on March 18 that they want to enter into negotiations with the City about the MOU. If MMIA has not made a decision by March 18, the Board will respond in writing to the City that they will wait until the decision is made to move forward.
 - Mariah moved for Mary to draft a letter, email it to the Board, and present it to the City Manager at the March 21 City Commission meeting, Jean 2nd. All in favor.
- Board would like to schedule a presentation on Library structure for new City Commissioners for a future Committee of the Whole meeting. Gayle will broach this with the City Manager.
- Alissa presented a proposal to the Board for becoming a joint city-county library through an interlocal agreement with the City with a lump sum request for funds. The Board will review this proposal and revisit at a later meeting.
- Board has letters of support from Jennie Stapp, Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson, and Mike Meloy. They will revisit distribution of these letters to the City Commission after the MMIA decision is made.
- Mary will contact Mike about amending the Board's contract to define the relationship as advisory and not representative.
- Gayle moved to decline having the Library considered as a backup site for the Family Connections popup emergency childcare program due to liability and lack of storage space, Cathy 2nd. All in favor.

New Business:

- Board will form a subcommittee for regular negotiations with the City Manager to expediate the process made up of Mary, Gayle, and another Board representative. A community advisory committee of relevant community partners may be formed to provide input and resources for the Board during negotiations. Both issues will be revisited after the MMIA decision is made.
- Library will purchase a yearlong movie license to be able to show movies in the building. This will likely start in the fall, and the Library will use FOL donation to fund matinees at the Judith Theatre for the summer.

Trustee Minute:

- None.

(4:15 PM Gayle moved to adjourn, Mariah 2nd. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.)

Next Special Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 3PM for Director's Evaluation.

**NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING: Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 1:30PM.
Respectfully Submitted: Brittney Uecker, Librarian.**