

Tillamook County Library Board Minutes
Wednesday, November 15, 2023; 10:00 a.m.
Hybrid Meeting

Board Members Present:

Sayde Walker, Madeline Olson, Tim Josi, Roamy Carver

Staff, Commissioner, and Others Present:

Angela Arena, Don Alegeier, Jenn Wells, Mary Faith Bell, Marisa Graham-Collier, Brian Miyagishima, Lillian (Tech Services Newport)

Public Input:

There were no community members present.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Sayde Walker at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday November 15, 2023.

Approval of October 2023 Minutes and Budget:

Sayde entertains approval of the October 2023 meeting minutes: Madeline moves to approve, Roamy seconds, minutes are approved unanimously.

November Budget and Spending Report:

Don states spending trends remain consistent; generally, we are on track, though we will need to adjust for capital spending next year. We are overbudget on periodicals, as discussed last month, due to not having accounting for the newspapers when budgeting last year.

Non-print materials were a little lower, however the next library of things order has been placed and will show up in next month's budget.

Digital Materials is currently well underbudget, but we expect to see spending increase with upcoming purchases and some General Ledger changes to come. With increasing use of the Hoopla Flex account, we have seen savings on instant loans, so the system is working well, and we should continue to see savings in this department.

Programing expenditures are evening out as we move away from the Summer Reading Program.

Items chosen for the Library of Things come from patron suggestion as well as what other libraries are offered. We have decided to explore adding a Comfort Cat.

Motion to approve library spending by Madeline, seconded by Roamy. Spending is approved unanimously.

Director's Report:

- The new custodian, Daisha (Dee) Wailehua, will be starting 11/16/2023.
- The Systems Librarian position will be posted in January: the job description has been finalized.
- Collections analytics tool CollectionHQ has been initiated in order to evaluate what and how materials are used in more detail, as well as ensuring that our collection is diverse and well rounded.
- Security and behavior issues continue on a regular basis at Main. We continue to attempt to maintain the balance between everyone feeling welcome while maintaining safety for all.
- The Halloween haunted house was a huge success. We are currently planning for December programming to get people excited about coming to the library and to be a touchstone place during the holiday season.
- Meetings with library friends' boards:
 - Manzanita Friends group will be seeing some changes in board members.
 - Rockaway Beach Friends Holiday Sale is in the planning stages and moving forward.
- Oregon Public Libraries Directors Meeting sponsored by the state of Oregon was a useful meeting to gain understanding of how libraries are doing across the state.

Data Dashboard

We are continuing to see ups and downs, though there is a slight downward trend of physical items while there is an increase in digital items.

Community use of both meeting and study rooms are increasing.

Teen services programs are building as we balance consistently offered programs with new one time offers. There have been efforts to engage at the high school to see what they are looking for.

Foundation Update

Don gave a small update as Jon is not present. The foundation is looking to put together a TLT application focused on funding the last pieces of the park.

There was a patron who was too rough with the umbrella on the park fountain, and we are looking to fix that soon. We are working to be more present in that space to make it welcoming without encouraging problematic behavior and improper use.

Commissioners Report:

Mary Faith Bell expressed appreciation to Don for being on the AFSCME bargaining team and engaging with strategic planning. It has been very helpful to have his presence at all of those meetings.

Recently Mary Faith Bell read an article regarding libraries that have started a program that offers the option to 'check out a person.'- spend a predetermined amount of time with someone to hear life story, discuss an area of expertise, or just spend time together. It is a popular program in Europe and currently happening in over 50 countries worldwide. Mary Faith Bell would like to know if this is something we would be interested in exploring to create community building opportunities and social engagement. Perhaps we could partner with the Historical Society and digitize the interactions to keep on record.

Special Presentation:

Lincoln County Library Director, Brian Miyagishima, and Lillian, tech services supervisor at Newport, joined the meeting to present a proposal to reunify Chinook Library Network and Oceanbooks Library Network.

Brian provided a brief overview of the history of the two consortiums:

2011-2012 Newport and Driftwood chose to form a consortium with Tillamook County due to shared choice for same ILS: Sierra, though the rest of the Chinook System opted to use Koha.

The downsides to this division include:

- Lincoln County residents have 2 library cards: one for the Chinook system and one for Oceanbooks.
- Chinook patrons have to utilize Inter-Library Loan services more frequently, which has higher costs to the library.
- Tillamook patrons have limited access to finding items at the local community colleges.

In 2020, Lincoln County applied for LSTA federal funds to hire a consultant to best serve all libraries in Lincoln County and Oregon Coast (Astoria-Brookings) as there is interest in creating a unified system along whole coast. The consultant advised against it at this time due to geographical issues, recommending starting with smaller steps by looking at rejoining all of Lincoln County back into same system, and hoping that Tillamook County would remain a partner.

Meetings over the last 2 years between library leaders and the consultant look to move in direction of Oceanbooks (Tillamook County, Driftwood and Newport) joining the Koha system which is used by Lincoln County now.

Features and Advantages of Koha:

- Opensource Software leads to Significant Annual Savings:
The annual maintenance cost of Koha would be approximately \$18,150 for Tillamook County. The current system Sierra costs approximately \$180,000 annually. Some of these savings would be partially offset by needing in-house expertise to configure the system, though it is possible that in developing this job title we could share the cost and benefit of this position.

- The Koha system is hosted on site.
- Koha offers training that could be paid for by LSTA grant.
- Every public library system south of Lincoln County makes use of Koha software. Corvallis and Benton Counties have also switched over. Jackson County Libraries have been long time users.
- Cost of migration to be paid by LSTA state funds- we are in the middle of the grant cycle now to obtain those funds.
- Operation is very similar to current system; the largest difference is a larger group of contributing libraries.
- User experience will be improved; search terms do not need to be exact to find items, better integration with online databases.
- Better staff experience: managing floating collections should be improved, ideally each library and branch should be able to better shape their collections and best serve the smaller location collections with better space utilization.
- Operations with check in/check out will not be vastly different but will require a short training.

Lincoln County plans to apply for new LSTA grant funds, due in February, for year one migration costs, and to allow for travel between libraries to train and confer. They are hoping that Tillamook County will join these efforts, even if it means the process will take a longer time.

Don states that he is looking forward to maintaining the relationship between Tillamook County, Newport, and Driftwood, as well as excited to be connected to Tillamook Bay Community College. A larger consortium creates more opportunities to serve the community in more diverse and meaningful ways and allows us to be thoughtful about sharing of resources, approach, and provision of modern library services.

Brian asks the board to plan for discussions in December and January to determine if we want to move forward with building the larger consortium before the end of February. If it is decided that we should move forward together, he asks for county commissioners, library board members, and city officials, etc. to provide letters of support for the grant applications.

Don asks that board members consider this presentation and come ready to ask questions about making this decision.

TCL Board looks forward to evaluating and discussing further.

Strategic Plan Board Reporting

Don has a KPI (key performance indicator) handout that he would like the board to review and advise on any additional needs for the data dashboard for reporting by the next board meeting.

Don will have a sample dashboard in December to create framework for evaluation and reporting.

Business Items

- Meeting back to 4th Thursday at Noon in December: 12/28/2023 at 12pm.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24pm.