

Tillamook County Library Board Minutes
Thursday, January 19, 2023; 12:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Byrne, Tim Josi, Madeline Olson, Jon Orloff, Sayde Walker,

Staff, Commissioner, and Others Present:

Don Allgeier, Jennifer Wells, Mary Faith Bell, Marisa Graham-Collier, Penny Hummel

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Sayde Walker at 11:22 a.m.

Public Input

There were no public comments.

Approval of December 2022 Minutes and Budget:

Jennifer Byrne moved to approve the minutes from the December 2022 meeting of the Tillamook County Library Advisory Board. Madeline Olson seconded. All were in favor; the motion carried.

Don reviewed the budget in terms of where we are and expect to be. December spending about the same. New: Reference is way over and this was due to an incorrect charge and we are working to gain a refund so this will level out.

Director's Report: Don Allgeier

- We have several ongoing recruitments: A total of 8 interviews for the Bay City branch have been completed; we are making an offer that we hope will be accepted and have compiled a list of alternatives as needed for this position as well as any LA2 position. We are hoping for a February 1st, 2023 start date if the original offer is accepted. The Library Manager posting will close January 24th, 2023- the goal is to interview at least 4 people. Library Assistant 3 Bookmobile be closing on January 27th at which time we plan to interview at least 5 candidates. All recruitments have garnered a good response.
- Children's Library- New paint is still scheduled for the end of February.
- Multnomah County Library is going through a capital remodel and are donating furniture; we have already picked up children's bins, lightweight tables, chairs, a canopy, and there is more to come.
- Our back parking lot has had a variety of issues: All day parking along with negative interactions with patrons and employees have been increasing. We are thinking about shifting the back lot to staff and volunteer parking while designating some 15 minute/loading zone spots. We will keep the ADA spots as they are.

- Community Engagement- We are reintroducing the Library of Things Collection by adding a variety of items from games to a projector and screen for movie nights. We will be advertising these additions through social media and marketing in the Headlight Harold.
- Book A Librarian Service- Put an envelope around services that we do provide that will be arranged for branches and main. Offers a one stop shop for our services like our notary at main and reader advisory. As we add new services, we will include these items for easy access. This will also be marketed through social media and the Headlight Harold after a soft launch.

Data Dashboard: We did see a dip in Patron visits in the month of December that Don does not have comprehensive understanding, though some factors could be that we had less story times along with a fair number of closure dates. We are investigating this further.

We added Notary Appointments to the document which has demonstrated a surprising amount of completed notary appointments and we look forward to tracking.

Business Items:

- Tillamook County Library Foundation- Jon missed most of the meeting, though the main takeaway is the endowment goals are being worked out as well as an achievement plan. Nothing has started to take place yet, but there are 15 items that people will be working on that will become library and public knowledge soon. Jon has 2 lectures scheduled and is working on a third. Thus far costs are low. Funding efforts are shifting from the stage to next plans.
- Betsey Chase's exit from board means we need a new board member. Recruitment was very rich in the past so we are reaching out to one of those candidates and it will go out to the public if this former applicant declines.
- Board Calendar 2023: Timing for Strategic Plan meetings start at 11am not 11:30 as printed. If anyone has topics to address, they should be emailed to Don.
- Board Officers need to be elected today:

Chair: Runs the meeting. Tim nominates Saydee to continue in her post. Jon seconds. Mary Faith Bell confirms and by unanimous vote Saydee continues to hold position of Chair for 2023.

Vice Chair: Saydee nominates Tim to continue as Vice Chair. He accepts nomination and by unanimous decision Tim will remain in his role as Vice Chair.

Strategic Planning

- Tillamook Main is holding the first listening session tonight. The listening session in Manzanita must be rescheduled due to a conflict for the community.
- Don and Penny met with seniors of Oceanside. States it meant a lot to people that the library showed up. Notary seems to be a desired asset to the community.
- Next month's discussion is going to involve the reading Expect More.
- Jon notes that Expect More focuses on serving a larger community. States in this part of the world we need more focus on preparedness for disaster. This might be a useful topic for each branch to have information. Penny agrees and states that Get Ready!: how to prepare for and stay safe after a Pacific Northwest earthquake by Deb Moller is a great book regarding this.

SOAR Exercise: Positive model to focus vision and planning.

Strengths:

- Our Friends of Libraries Groups.
- Passage of levies to ensure we still have our libraries. Support was weakest at southern part of county so perhaps we should see what we can provide them ensuring that they see value.
- Staff/Librarians are phenomenal at what we do.
- We have an excellent library system, having our many branches and bookmobile ensures we have a wide reach within community.
- Facilities: Beautiful buildings.
- County-wide system: we service a great deal of the county through our six branches and the bookmobile. We are on track with what larger library systems offer in terms of programming, collections, and services despite our small size.
- Library of Things is very important and the more we can invest in it the better.
- We display a high level of responsiveness to community needs has been met quickly. Ability to recognize where we can fill a need in the community is one of our greatest strengths. An example is that during COVID, even though we were closed we provided services geared toward being helpful for both parents and students.
- Sharing of materials with Newport and Lincoln City; allowing for an expanded collection without a large financial output.
- Garibaldi community reaches out a lot about how wonderfully we provide for families.
- Focusing on expanding programs to branches has been very important.
- Public Art Displays

Opportunities: What are best areas to add value and benefits.

- We will be expanding programming, public event, and lecture opportunities with the completion of the stage in the garden.

- Emergency Preparedness- Partner and collaboration with established emergency services groups.
- Providing new tech (ex: 3D printer).
- Increase outreach to Spanish speaking community.
- Strengthen staff retention and development.
- Programs specifically designed for seniors-Loneliness amongst seniors is a prevalent and significant issue.
- Programs to bring the community together- Largely, seniors and millennials are known to be struggling with loneliness issues. The library programs could help alleviate this while breaking boundaries between community members to bring people together.

Challenges to the opportunities:

- Book challenges- how do we bring members of our community together to have conversations amongst those that hold differing viewpoints? How do we build trust through fun activities that allow people to see each other as humans rather than their place in the political spectrum.

Aspirations- what are our hopes and dreams?

- More programming for seniors.
- Chautauqua Series- speakers and scholars' series.
- Branches to become more of a community hub- think of library for first place to touch base about community as well as reading and seeking knowledge.
- Increase collaboration with community partners.
- Facilities- utilize partnership between friends' leadership and library board.
 - There is potential for an expansion in Manzanita.
 - BC/GA/RK- currently size of small express library but we treat as a larger library. We need to think about how those spaces are inviting and what collection does for people. Lucky day in all branches could help but need to think about the trade-offs there. Spaces that small being everything to everyone might not be working well. Thoughtful curation could be refined. Individualizing each location to meet their specific needs has room for improvement.
- How do we engage more with south county? Pacific City and the Bookmobile could use additional support. It is more rural than north county, so careful evaluation of the needs held by people living there will be necessary. Could we investigate mail order services or a second Bookmobile?

- Staffing- We would like to see more cross training and staff retention.
- Design outreach more intentionally- Engage in outreach that is spread more equitably around the county and more focused on specific needs of each area.

Results- how do we measure our success with reaching goals?

- Annual survey and bond levy success.
- After events we can offer a survey.
- Engage in communications with public re: services. We need to do more outreach, especially to Spanish speaking communities.
- Building the volunteer base is a great area of opportunity that we will tap into this year.
- Staffing stability.
- Collection: print has good flow, but our electronic options are limited. Will need to see what we can expand without going over budget.
- Technology- currently no more than 50% of our computers are in use at any given time. We will look to see this increase. It is worth looking into having at least one Mac for programs that can't be run on PC.
- Programming in Spanish.
- Facilities- We have opportunities to address unused computers, the reference section, and Law library.
- Social work- Unhoused people are a part of our library community. Peter at CARE has mentioned arranging some space and time to have social workers at the library to meet with people in need of their aid. Can we partner with other service providers? Tillamook County mental health and addiction services will be worth looking into, in an effort to help stabilize and support.
- We need to make sure we chose sustainable and achievable planning. Don't take on too much so that can set up for success.

Expect More: Demanding Better Libraries for Today's Complex World by David Lankes

- There are elements of this book that will not apply to our smaller system. We will use this to see what we can utilize and adjust to fit our system.
- COVID has changed perspective on social gatherings- second article addresses social changes with this that could apply to our facilities and programming uses. Read this book with these changes in mind.

IN closing, Penny would like to share that our percentage of community satisfaction is very high compared to other systems Penny has done evaluations for; now we get to build on that which is a great place to be.

New "Our Vision" 2023 brochures available in Dons office.

Meeting called to end at 1:01pm