

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE JEROME PUBLIC LIBRARY
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

The Board of Trustees of the Jerome Public Library met in the library meeting room for their monthly meeting on September 14, 2021. In attendance were Board Chair Linda Burton, Sarah Sandridge, Deyanira EscalonaTrochez, Chase Rogers and Director Linda Mecham.

The meeting was called to order by Linda Burton at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda review – No changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes – Linda Burton made a motion to approve the June 8, 2021 minutes with the correction of the date of the meeting in the first sentence. Sarah Sandridge seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report – The financial report was presented. 92% of the fiscal year has elapsed. The Finance department went before the council last week to amend our budget because we brought in more than expected in grant revenue. We received \$147,153.26 in property taxes last month. We are at 89.6% of our expected revenue. We have expended 73.4% of our budgeted amount.

August 2021 bills were presented. Linda Burton made a motion to approve the August 2021 bills as presented. Deyanira Escalona Trochez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report:

- The library operations report was presented. Digital content circulation is still going strong. All three libraries received \$2,000 each through the ARPA grant. We have added even more digital content. With the increased usage, the other two libraries are beginning to make a greater investment in digital content. WiFi usage looks different now with the new system. It no longer counts each time a person enters the building and reconnects to the WiFi. Now it only counts the IP address of the device each day. The capping of fines does not seem to be reducing the amount of fine revenue the library is generating. Conversely, it seems that the more manageable amount keeps people using the library.
- The library lost two more staff members to school settings in July. Connie Moncada went to work for Kim Lickley in the migrant program. Debbie Rankin took a teaching job back in Arizona where she came from. The library simply cannot compete with the school schedule. This is especially important for parents of young children. We have begun our search for new staff to fill the vacancy. We have had very little response to the employment ad. The board asks if we have ever considered hiring teens. This was discussed with the City Administrator. We would love to be a training environment for teens. The city policy requires employees have a high school diploma or equivalent. The city administrator said that policies can be changed. However, I don't think this will happen in time to help the library with our current staffing shortage.
- The Library is planning on attending the Freedom Fest to promote current and upcoming programs and services.
- Our library phone system has been down since August 2nd. We have one line for the entire library. We are reaching out to PMT and Ednetics to look into a VOIP system. We hope to make a decision with input from IT and get a new system in place soon.

Unfinished Business

- The library has an opportunity to work with Library Strategies. They have a grant in place to train Idaho representatives to help libraries develop an effective long range plan. The LIBRI consortium has signed up to be the libraries used for the trainers. The board thought it would be a good idea to table the Long Range Plan until the library can make use of this opportunity.

New Business

- The Burley and DeMary Libraries are considering becoming districts. They would like to be full county districts. The director was looking for guidance on this and invited a discussion with the board about their interest in pursuing a district option. We discussed the pros and cons of this. One advantage is that city tax payers would be charged less as the cost would be distributed to a larger area. One disadvantage is the added burden of serving a larger area. Sarah Sandridge mentioned that the main goal of our library is to be sure that we are serving the underserved. We are doing that in several ways. Currently, we are offering free cards to students who live in the county. We are offering free card to seniors. We are using city funds to provide services to those in the county. But becoming a district would mean that those receiving those services for free would have to pay for the services. This may be a hardship for them. When weighing all the options, the board felt that pursuing a district at this time would not be advisable.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.