



LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Minutes of Meeting  
Wednesday, July 19, 2023

**Present:** Gale Batsimm, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Emily Copeland, Mary Danko, Chol Dhoor, Patrick Halladay, Nora Kane, Cate MacLachlan, Amy Mellencamp, Mona Tolba.

**Approval of Minutes:** From May 17: Correction to minutes, add Cate MacLachlan to last month's attendance. Patrick moved, Cate seconded. Approved.

**Approve Agenda:** Mary added request for discussion of Request for Reconsideration Form to agenda. Patrick moved, Emily seconded. Approved.

**Public Forum:** No public in attendance.

Amy noted the Commission will welcome Grace and Amelia as Student Commissioners and have a chance to meet them next meeting.

**Friends Report:** Congrats to Mary in her appointment with VLA as Vice President. Leadership in library associations across the country is more important than ever with attacks against libraries. Montana pulled out of ALA (American Library Association).

Jonathan noted that the 150<sup>th</sup> Library Celebration was spectacular. The Friends had another successful book sale, raising \$2800 during the 2-day sale. Outdoor sales work well and book sales are curated beautifully. The Friends could use more hands for August 5-6 book sale. They are also looking for ways to help Friends groups and libraries in VT suffering from floods. Kellogg-Hubbard Library lost 5000 books in flood, we have books we could provide, the Friends are looking into that. The Friends voted to make their annual allocations to library departments. Departments including professional development, youth, teen, etc. \$107,600 in allocation, an increase from \$103,000 the previous year. The growth of the Friends' capacity tells an important story over past six years. ELOP was grant-funded limited service and now added as a city halftime position, could never have done that without Friends. Other departments produce income, at the library everything is free. FFL eliminated library fines, which had been a revenue source for library. Patrick shared unexpected benefit to book sale, young couple reached out to us for programs. Book sales bring people in. Community surveys Nora was reviewing several mention book sales as something they like.

**Director's Report:** Mary said she would answer questions from report. Mary said this is the second time she has received a Request for Reconsideration Form for a book someone wants to add. When a title request comes in, the librarians review what is author's cv, library journal reviews, other reviews, etc. There is Collection Development Policy that the Librarians follow. In this case there were no reviews for this book, the individual disagreed. If the person fills out a Request for Reconsideration form, the process will begin and the title in question will go before an ad hoc group of librarians who will supply a response. If the requester still disagrees, they will then have the option to bring the request to a commission meeting. Commission may decide to engage city attorney. Mona asked about content. Public library is also a popular collection, so librarians also make decisions on the books the community wants and that will have readership, since we have limited space. Patrick asked about decision process.

Mary said FFL can rely on ILL for books that they could borrow if there is a title they don't add for whatever reason. When it comes to nonfiction science books, librarians look at preponderance of evidence, conversations among librarians, requests, empirical evidence, etc. Is this a book that anyone else will read? Chol said good that adding options, but wondered about removing books from library. Mary said an individual filling out a request will receive a folder when they come in. This one was over phone. Can add to form 'Have you read the policy'? Cate asked how much influence does one person have? We are never about denying access but also mindful about taxpayer dollars. For many books we acquire it is straightforward process, there are times we have in-depth conversations about adding a title to the collection. Sometimes people want a book on our shelves for others to read, not for themselves. Emily noted that some of it is political. We are in a good place because we can get ILL from all over the world. Have to update collection development policy, Mary will call that committee meeting soon.

**Subcommittee:** Thanks to 150<sup>th</sup> committee and Phil for leading that.

**New business:** None

**Meeting Adjourned:** Cate, Nora seconded. Approved.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 20 at 7:45 am