

**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024  
5:00 P.M.  
DOWNTOWN RENO LIBRARY  
301 S. Center St.  
RENO, NV 89501**

**Library Trustees**

Gianna Jacks, Chair  
Lea Moser, Trustee  
Al Rogers, Trustee  
Ann Silver, Trustee  
Vacant

**The Board met in regular session in hybrid format via Zoom and in person.**

**CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE THE FLAG**

Chair Jacks called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

**Present:**

**Gianna Jacks, Vice-Chair  
Lea Moser Trustee (appearing virtually)  
Al Rogers Trustee  
Ann Silver, Trustee**

**Absent:**

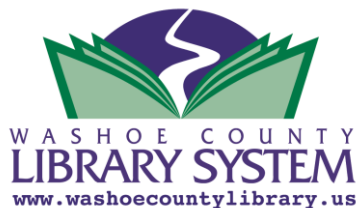
**None**

**County Staff:**

**Jeff Scott Library Director  
Herb Kaplan Deputy District Attorney  
Dave Solaro, Deputy County Manager**

- 1) Public Comment – Three Minute Time Limit Per Person [Non-Action Item]  
*No discussion or action by the Board may be taken upon any matter raised under this public comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.*

Jesse Ebs



Tons of folks with different backgrounds here attending the meeting and frankly I think this is awesome. The difference is what makes the melting pot here tonight and that is what makes our City Great. Where our past, however, split is what makes us. I feel we should have the right to read whatever books we wish. We have people telling us that we shouldn't have access to certain literacy. Over 2000 books have been banned in the United States largely focusing on the LGBTQ community, people of color, and different diverse backgrounds and that is a great disservice to our culture. We lose the ability to start accepting our differences with each other and our society. Everyone should have access to read whatever they like and be able to express what we feel.

Nadin Jameas

Here to show support for inclusion programming and books that Jeff Scott has put together to that end I also encourage you to acknowledge the funds donated by the Friends of Washoe County. Nonprofit that has for decades supported the Washoe County library system. These funds are not paid by taxpayers who support inclusive programming. We need to keep these programs it is fundamental to the community. Spoke about drag queen story hour and stated the library does not pay a penny for a program that brings dozens. The event is posted on the library website and reflects messages of self-acceptance and love and empathy. Most reactionary groups are threatened by such positive messages because they teach our children to be more loving of themselves and others.

Debra Actenburg

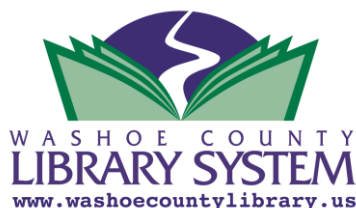
Retired philosophy professor from UNR and Reno resident since 1982. Wanted to thank us for the activities on behalf of the community thank the Board and library system. Stated citizens are informed and they expand their horizons. Felt she is educated on a wide variety of topics and groups of people. Democrat governance requires citizens to know each other including knowing others who are different. Thank you for providing resources on racial and gender differences. And holding events on topics and training on the topics as well. Drag queen story hour is important that you resist efforts by well finance and well organized national and local groups. To cancel to the culture, they disagree with. Which of course they are not forced to read any books or attend any events they don't refer to. Libraries must be open sources of information and cultural connection. Thank you for continuing to be such sources and not being swayed by groups that would narrow our focus.

Hanna Decatos

16-year-old volunteer. If I am not reading or volunteering, I post book reviews on my blog and Instagram. Reading is her passion. Really appreciate Washoe County library and the staff. Born and raised in Reno and is a frequent library visitor. The library is a safe and successful fun place for everyone. Part of the library has diverse books. Loves the organized fun family events such as story time. One of my favorite things about volunteering is seeing how much little kids enjoy story hour.

Tarra Decatos

last month was the first time that I had attended a library board meeting. I feel we heard some hypothetical concerns about the library from some people. We heard real firstpers9on stories from



library users including myself whose lives have been significantly improved by libraries and improved by divers books and by being themselves. Washoe County has the best library staff, the most wonderful people working in the library, and we have great books and great programming. I feel we need to come together as a community to support the library so they can continue to do the great work they already do.

Gail Townsend

We have tons of disagreement about what kind you feel is appropriate at the library whether it be books or programing. And there are people who do not see eye to eye in the community. I love and appreciate diversity as a fundamental part of this big and wonderful world. You meet all sorts of people, some whom understand or identify with some. Reading books is a core about temporarily assuming an unfamiliar point of view. We need to broaden our endlessly diverse experiences that has seen in life incorporation that knowledge into your own personal growth.

Ilya Arm

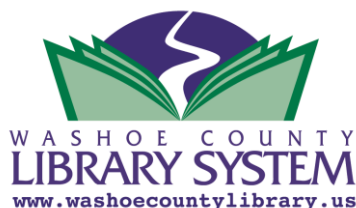
Came back in October to talk about how much fun she got doing ban book the focus was on ban books we focused on events like that story hour we miss the larger picture. It's not just about books, it's about power. The protesters' aim is to erase everything and everyone they disagree with. They want the power to recreate the library in their image. They want to erase the LGBTQ community by suppressing ideas they don't like advance the narrow religious view at the extensive mind and destroy intellectual freedom.

Candace Powell

Parent and proud library card holder been to a few meetings and have heard what other public commenters had to say. The uproar of supposed accessibility of pornography in our libraries sounds as if there is a shop set up inside our library system. It is a tale of reasonableness. We need to protect our children. My children and I attend the library every week and we have yet to come across anything of that sort. My daughter has borrowed and read 62 books over winter break and not even one of the books were inappropriate or pornographic. Real concern is teens and kids seeking porn at the library and it is just ridiculous.

Janice Jones

Representative of a large group of people who speak for many in the community. You are familiar with artistic grievances, the rationale behind them and the possible solutions we've offered. The list of grievances includes but are not limited to moving sexually explicit and pornographic reading material to adult sections of the library unavailable to small children and drag queen story hour at all Washoe libraries. Get control of Director Scott or terminate him and end all association with the American Library Association as many states across the nation have done. Possibly you all are paving the way or laying the groundwork to implement the solutions we have offered. We can not be sure it just appears to be long past the time that taxpayers, voter citizens, and all community members of Washoe County should receive the relief they are due from this board of trustees. Agenda Item 5G discussion to review director evaluation process I hope that the trustees and chair have had the time and opportunity to



review director Scotts May 2018 evaluation which was not much different than this one. There has not been a lot of improvement in the last five years.

Gordon Gossage

Has submitted an application to become a library board of trustee and gave these words yesterday to the County Commissioners. I want to serve on the library board because whether I agree with all elected and appointed leaders of all issues I want to do my part to emphasize cooperation rather than conflict. As of 2024 we can agree to solve the problem of our library in sun valley and co-create a library specializing in Spanish language materials. We can work with the leaders of our rodeo to help create an extensive Western Heritage. Our board service should primarily help our Director achieve organization goals we should provide a sounding board for ideas provide public support and respond to the director whenever. Ask the timely performing contributions of high quality. I have specific experience managing librarians.

Paul Larson

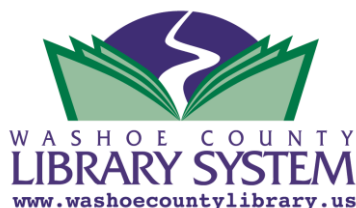
Hard to begin on this issue but I think we all agree that kids are precious to all of us. Every one of us were a kid at one time we were passing the baton down from generation to generation we want them to come to childhood and the one thing we do not want is the grooming of children in any way we know how psychologically damaging it is and there is a lifelong impact in that. Sexualization of children is absolutely off the table. We have reasonable restrictions on voting ages, access to alcohol, tobacco products, R rated materials. Lots of restrictions on what it age appropriate and what is not. And what adults choose to do in the bedroom is their business but hands off the kids. Please allow them to maintain their childhood.

Chris Daniels

I am Ginger Devine one of the drag queens that regularly read at drag queen story hour the thing I wanted to speak on most today is a unique perspective because I in the room with librarians and parents and children am seeing first hand the joy and beauty of these events. The things I hear about having to protect children from bubble parties because we always start drag queen story hour with bubble machines going off in the room and some nice curated playlist with children music and then the librarians actually lead the songs. The librarians then welcome the children to story hour and then I read two to three stories about a unicorn having a bad day about a child getting into some glitter everywhere and then they want more glitter and then a cat is in the glitter these are the stories being read to these children. During story hour I also speak to the families who attend and the lines go out the door of children and parents with smiles and who are joyful. They speak to me about family members who are no longer around because they didn't feel loved or accepted and wisht there were events like this when they were young. They are excited to take a picture with a drag queen and do arts and crafts with the center or amazing library staff.

Cate Salem

Wanted to thank Jeff Scott for the work he is doing for the libraries. We have so many beautiful libraries in this County going all the way to Incline Village. They are amazing along with the staff the services to this community is huge. From books to making videos available and even to allow voting in the libraries is an incredible service for out community and am grateful. Attended the last meeting and heard when



people would derive when comments were made concerning banning of books, they said they were not trying to ban books. Is grateful that the board takes time to come and listen to everyone and pay attention to everyone not being on the phone while we are talking that is awesome. You have a tough job it is not easy and trying to remember that this is a public library with emphasis on the public. Everyone deserves to have access to the library.

Amanda Molholland

Always grateful that everyone is able to share opinions openly and freely. Its one of the reasons she loves the library. Would like to express support for the events they are about fostering my love for reading and promoting inclusivity and celebrating diversity in a time of increase in literacy. As a former educator these are reasons to get children involved in more literacy. The library does provide a safe and welcoming space for families of all backgrounds. They can all come together and enjoy stories told by talented readers. These events offer an opportunity for children to learn about different perspectives, develop empathy, and embrace the beauty of individuality. Drag queen story hour contributes more inclusive contributes to a more inclusive society where everyone is valued and respected. Let us celebrate the power of storytelling and the joy it brings to children and families regardless of gender identity or expression.

Holly Carter

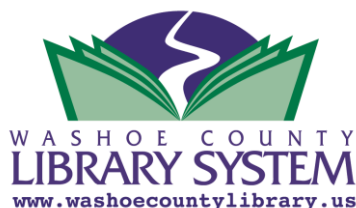
Former educator and lifelong library patron. Quick shout out to my mom for being a wonderful and intelligent mother who felt the love of books and the library for me. I love libraries and this is one of the few spaces people of all backgrounds can or at least should be able to enjoy freely and respectfully. Books have a great way of expanding world views leading that charge especially as young adult books. This year I was able to read books about love, about main characters with a physical disability, and books with main characters that are not all white citizens and straight. Its exciting since I did not get any of that when I was a kid so seeing that this is popular now is great. Supports the drag queen story hour.

Maggie Bab

A library user, reader, and educator here in the community. Wanted to speak in support of the efforts to be inclusive and incorporate diverse perspectives. To be able to go through the shelves and find books that are not separate because that in not equal and in the programming. The library is a vital resource and appreciate the efforts to nurture that in our community. I hope to see you continue and also look forward to engaging as we go through finding another Trustee.

Ryan Ma

Wanted to voice her opinion to pornographic materials being in areas accessible to children. She is not suggesting the literature be banned from the library only that they are not available to children. I am a woman that does not want to be silenced I have written educational materials addressing inclusivity and



cultural confidence that is not what this is about our children are our future and it is my opinion that their young brains should not be subjected to such materials.

Bruce Parks

Same thing Janice Jones said.

Bruce Foster Would like to let all the librarians know and all whom attended the meeting that the library has so much to offer in all kinds of different programs and outreach. We the people have a bit of an issue with one part of this area which was introduced by the Director of libraries. I am not sure if you read my emails but I just wish to encourage you to move all sexual explicit books to a designated adult section. We do not want to ban books we just need to get them away from the innocents and wish the books that highlight the LGBTQ trans ideology as well as drag queen story is harmful to the innocence culture has shifted over the years in a harmful way. We are now required to tolerate, accept, and participate in and celebrate this. Also expressed concern over the ideology at the National American library association conference that is happening this month in Baltimore, and it highlights this community as well. Emily Drabinski president of the ALA is a lesbian.

Roger Edwards

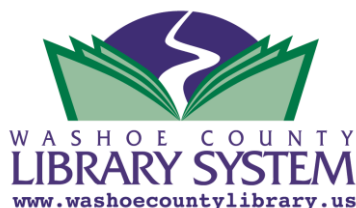
Father of three and grandfather of five great grandfather of two and a lover of the library. Memory of the library is going up and down the isles with my five-year-old and her dragging her finger along all the books and her awe of the overwhelming volumes from aisle to aisle back then we did not have to worry about some homosexual dressed up as a woman parading up and down in front of our children. Grooming them for illicit actions. These actions do not belong in a public library with children.

Alan Munson

Resident and library card holder and voting citizen who is not threatening anybody and not asking for any books to be banned what I am asking is that them books that have sexuality be placed in a spot not where children are. None of the children should be exposed to Sex at that early age.

Scott Finley

Washoe County resident with a military background in the financial management of the United States Air Force the Washoe County library board of trustees must eliminate fiscal responsibility and hold library director Jeff Scott accountable for his actions or lack thereof agenda item 5E seeks to review the costs associated with drag queen story which the director shall ensure the supporting materials pertinent to this agenda item are made available to trustees, Board, legal counsel and the public in accordance with NRS 241. The only material provided is an email sent by Director Jeff Scott to the library board of trustees stating that the five drag queen story hour during summer 2023 cost the library 0 dollars and that is partnership with our center support for volunteers and financial support of \$2,620. The summer event actually cost the library \$2,620 dollars but these costs were offset by its partnership with our center providing the support for volunteers and financial support. Where is the supporting materials that breaks down the cost accrued by the five drag queen story hours during the summer 2023. Even an itemized summary would be helpful to show the library board of trustees whether or not any additional expenses were incurred or overlooked by the director Jeff Scott.



Kylie Ball

15-year-old who really didn't want to speak but after hearing all the opinions of everyone she decided to show her opinion as well. There are some main issues the people have brought up tonight, one is sexuality books, and the other is from the story hour. The first one is pornography in books. I read quiet a lot mainly young adult books and most of them have overly sexual themes and most of them have not been marked as overly sexual they have been labeled as a romance but its something we can consider a sweet teen romance but it quickly devolves into something kind of sexual I do not want to be subjected to and I know that a lot of my friends are asexual as well and it something they are comfortable with. Everybody who is here for diversity is completely ignoring a big part of the community. Drag queen story hour many of us were focused on the benefits of diversity and I do not deny that I do not deny that this is a good thing as a Asian woman I am grateful for being accepted in this society however, things like drag queen story hour shows direct comparison to princesses is taking away female representation.

Gregory Wonderland

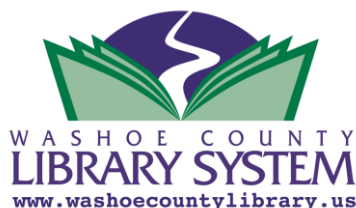
Local author who spent most of his life reading and creating stories. Decided to speak after hearing people say they don't want to ban books but to move them away to hide them in a corner where they are not accessible. In a public library everything is accessible. As persons of power, you have the ability to make decisions and every decision made to squirrel knowledge away to hide anything has a long definitive impact. Worried about teaching children the wrong things, teaching them that you should hide knowledge and not educate them about that knowledge is the wrong decision.

William Putchert

Heard a lot of discussion regarding children tonight and it made me think of Sir David Bowie who I am wearing his shirt tonight may consider to be drag queen and there is a lyric from his song changes that I think is appropriate. It says these children that we spit on as we try to change their world they are immune to your consultation they are quite aware.

Nichell Hull (virtual)

Director of wake-up Washoe County. Want to echo the numerous previously stated sentiments tonight, especially Janice Jones earlier. The majority of the public comment going back nearly five years now has been to say that most traditional Americans most traditional family people do not want their library to be an adult bookstore. They do not want their library to be a drag show for their innocent kids they want the kids to be kids they want their children to have a safe space. They want a maintained standard of age-appropriate material in our libraries and unfortunately it was Mr. Scott who indicated the bazar program drag queen preschool story hour in 2019 and weather the American Library Association recommended that program or not is material. A professional association just gives you guidance, gives



ideas and opportunities for advancement. They are not the decision maker for a local organization, that was Scott's decision.

December (Virtual)

Echo the majority support tonight for the libraries diverse and inclusive offerings the library is a public service for everyone, so it has books for everyone including Renos thriving queer community. I am sorry if this offends certain groups, I invite you to use your critical thinking skills to wonder why am I upset when I believe the library should cater exclusively to me and my beliefs if you claim that you must control the freedom of information to protect the children as a history lover I am obliged to tell you this is a common fascist talking point. Grateful to have a library system that sees past the charade and supports our freedom to read.

Victoria Myer (Virtual)

Some of the comments regarding kids having access to porn on the phones or anywhere is not a good reason to have on the library shelves. Previous speaker is incorrect we did spend the summer documenting by call number all the books and what the contents are and the Board members have heard them and seen the copies of the books. The petition going around says no more sexually explicit books accessible to children. This is just common sense. These books are not somehow educational, and children do not need to learn about fisting and anal sex and masturbating. I don't care if heterosexual or homosexual children's minds need to be protected. This is getting to ridiculous proportions I am holding up to the camera the petition that has been circulating with over 1200 verifiable Washoe County residents who have signed the petition. We are tired of this argument it is time to make a move and a change and restrict these books.

Bri Schmidt (Virtual)

Program associate with Silver State equality a civil rights LGBTQ plus organization statewide for Nevada. Would like to clarify for the trustees that I know you have to listen and deal with a lot on this topic, so I appreciate your care and taking care of the library. I know a ton of people have shared what books they would like to have removed or put in a sperate section and regardless of opinions on the contents of those books most of the books brought up are already filed in the adult nonfiction section.

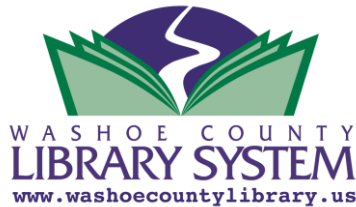
Chair Jacks changed the order of the agenda as follows:

*5a Acknowledge \$80,000 Donation from Friends of Washoe County Library; \$50,000 Donation for South Valleys Library; \$139,117 Donation for Sierra View Library by Louis Nowak [For Possible Action]*

Jamie Hemingway introduced Friends of Washoe County Library and thanking them for their donation.

Move to acknowledge by Trustee Silver





Seconded by Trustee Rogers  
Vote in Favor was Unanimous

**3a** Approval of Minutes from the Library Board Meeting of December 20th , 2023 [For Possible Action]

Board comments.

Trustee Rogers commented on an error at the end of the December 20<sup>th</sup> minutes stating that Trustee Silver's motion was not a separate motion to acknowledge the Library Director's Evaluation.

Trustee Silver inquired as to the length of time it takes to complete the minutes. Director Scott replied it takes 30 hours to complete with the verbatim public comment minutes.

Chair Jacks stated her displeasure in the quality of the minutes and that they are completed by library staff. She also stated the library chambers are inadequate and she will not approve the minutes.

Trustee Rogers clarified his comments on the minutes that there was an error on the action item at the end of the Director's Evaluation item.

Trustee Rogers Moved to approve the minutes. Trustee Moser Seconded the motion.

Public Comment:

Bruce Parks commented that the minutes were not put before the public with sufficient time according to Nevada Revised Statutes.

Valerie Fiannaca expressed her displeasure over the accuracy of the minutes.

Board Comment:

Trustee Rogers inquired from DA Kaplan as to the requirement for the verbatim public comment. DA Kaplan replied there is no requirement to record the minutes verbatim.

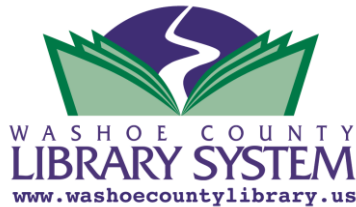
Chair Jacks further expressed her displeasure regarding the minutes.

Board Vote:

YES	No
Trustee Moser	Chair Jacks
Trustee Silver	
Trustee Rogers	

**5c** Election of Vice-Chair for Library Board of Trustees [For Possible Action]

Chair Jacks nominated Trustee Moser for Vice Chair. Trustee Silver Seconds the Motion.



Chair Jacks that Trustee Moser has been one of the longest serving members on the board. Trustee Moser commented that she has the most time on the board and with her work experience can provide guidance for future reports.

Public Comment:

Bruce Parks supported Trustee Moser for Vice Chair

Board Vote

Vice Chair Moser is elected unanimously.

#### **5e Review Costs of Drag Queen Story Hour [Non-Action Item]**

Director Scott shared his report on Drag Story Hour.

Trustee Rogers inquired about how programs like this come about. Does the library perform Activity Based Costing to determine value of programs.

Director Scott replied that most of the library programs are developed by the Youth Services and Library Events Team who have a process to determine programs and events that align with our strategic plan.

Trustee Rogers inquired if there is a financial goal for programs.

Director Scott replied that the goal is to think about who is going to come to the event. Will this program have good attendance or not.

Chair Jacks stated that she was unhappy with the report and the information provided to the board.

Vice Chair Moser asked for the staff costs for putting on programs in the future.

Director Scott replied that we could do that in the future but would require Activity Based Costing process that involves Work Journaling and similar processes to determine that cost.

Trustee Silver inquired if Our Center gave us the funding directly.

Director Scott stated no, the costs were paid directly by Our Center.

Trustee Rogers stated that before we start questioning the cost of the storytime we look at the costs for all of our programs.

Director Scott stated that there was an audit of library programs that was conducted by the auditor and that information was sent to the library board.

#### **6b Tax Initiative Update by Director Jeff Scott [Non-Action Item]**

Director Scott provided an update on the Library Tax Initiative.

Trustee Rogers suggested some changes to the reporting and how we communicated the information to the public. Not to refer to it as a tax, but an override. Also suggested having an elevator pitch for the trustee to use for reaching out to the public.

Vice Chair Moser echoed Trustee Rogers comments and that the Director should provide updates and instruction on how the override should be discussed.

Chair Jacks expressed her displeasure of the update.



**5b Review and Possible Revision of Library Board of Trustee Bylaws [For Possible Action]**

Chair Jacks led the discussion on the bylaws.

Trustee Silver suggested that the attendance should reflect the zoom attendance.

Chair Jacks suggested adding that the meetings can be conducted virtually.

Chair Jacks mentioned changes she would like to see in November and received feedback from DA Kaplan

DA Kaplan suggested that if there are further substantive edits, he suggests discussing them here and then bring them back at a future meeting.

Chair Jacks discussed meeting locations and adding the Pledge of Allegiance to the bylaws.

Chair Jacks clarified the strikethrough lines in the bylaws

DA Kaplan clarified the terms served for trustees.

Trustee Silver wanted clarification on trustees reaching out to political leaders.

Trustee Rogers wanted to keep the language in but adjust it for clarification.

Vice Chair Moser discussed concerned about library locations and having a place that is conducive for meetings.

Trustee Silver stated that she is not concerned about library locations or safety at those meetings and feels that chambers are very far removed from the public.

Trustee Rogers agreed with Trustee Silver's assessment and stated that the locations work but keep chambers as an option if necessary.

Chair Jacks stated that the library locations have improper recording devices.

DA Kaplan expressed concerned about extensive discussion and changes to the bylaws that are not reflected in the agenda packet. Suggested getting a list ahead of time and bring it forward at a future meeting.

Chair Jacks expressed concerned about the Chair and staff duties in putting the agenda together. Chair Jacks expressed changes she wanted on what constitutes a quorum.

DA Kaplan clarified that a majority is a best way to keep it as is.

Chair Jacks inquired about the public comments sections. DA Kaplan clarified that NRS requires two of three possible public comment periods (before, during action items, and after the meeting).

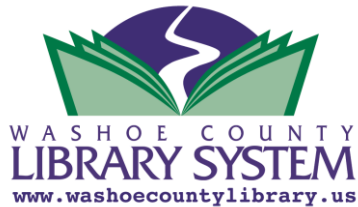
**5f Discussion and possible direction on Washoe County Library System policies including but not limited to all current, and new policies for prioritizing and standardizing with a schedule to review, update and consider new policies and what topics they might include. [Non-Action Item]**

Chair Jacks tabled this agenda item.

**5g Library Director Eval**

**Trustee Silver suggested items to Washoe County HR, improve metrics and performance measures, have a more robust eval format.**

**Vice Chair Moser agreed with Trustee Silver review of Director Eval and has other documents that could be used to improve the process.**



**Trustee Silver suggested Washoe County HR to provide clear measurable performance standards.**

**Trustee Rogers expressed need for a timeline.**

#### **5d Trustee Manual**

**Chair Jacks led discussion of Trustee Manual**

**Vice Chair Moser suggested changes to Trustee Manual based on feedback from other libraries and agreed to work with Director Scott on updating the manual.**

**6a** Library Director Update by Director Jeff Scott [Non-Action Item]

Director Scott updated the library board on library events since the last meeting.

**6c/6d** Downtown Reno Library and Internet Library Report Tabled

**7** Staff Announcements

**8** Board Comments

Trustee Rogers expressed concerned about the renewal of the library expansion fund tax and wanted to champion this initiative.

Chair Jacks adjourned the meeting at 8:53