



**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025
5:30 P.M.
SPARKS LIBRARY 1125 12th Street, Sparks, NV 89431**

Library Trustees:

**Ann Silver, Chair
Tami Ruf, Vice-Chair
Gianna Jacks, Trustee
Lea Moser, Trustee
Marie Rodriguez, Trustee**

- 1) Salute to the Flag - Led by Gianna Jacks, Trustee
- 2) Roll Call [Non-Action Item]
Present – Chair Ann Silver, Vice Chair Ruf, Trustee Rodriguez, Trustee Jacks, Trustee Moser
- 3) Reports
 - a) Library Director Update by Jeff Scott [Non-Action Item]
Director Scott announced that previous director Gould passed away. Technology upgrades are coming to meeting rooms at the branches. The library is researching privacy screens and other computer configurations. Scott covered other library events and programs happening at several library branches. Scott mentioned the employee engagement survey and that it was released to the public.
 - b) Library Budget Update [Non-Action Item]
Director Scott talked about budget prep meetings with the county. Gohar Barsegian was brought in to help explain budget line items and presented the current budget to the board on a line-by-line basis (report run through January 2025, YTD). The board discussed the budget, including staff salaries and bargaining unit distinctions outlines for the budget. Scott also covered donations and gift fund balances and cash control audit status.
 - c) Library Statistical Update [Non-Action Item]

Director Scott gave an overview of various library statistics.

d) Sparks Library Update [Non-Action Item]

Kerry Stendell, interim Sparks Library Branch Manager, gave an update on events, programs and notable items happening at the Sparks Library. Mitch Winterman Sparks Library Librarian gave an update on the Senior Center Library and the current remodel.

e) Book Team Update [Non-Action Item]

Debi Stears, Collections Development Manager, gave an update on the book team. Jennifer Cole, South Valleys Librarian gave an overview of the Author Fest event held in November 2024.

4) Public Comment – Two 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.

- a. Alana Fitzgerald - Thanked trustees and staff of the library and complimented the range of services provided at our branches. Suggested all follow the ALA and NRS statutes concerning public libraries for everyone in the community.
- b. Sandee Tibett – Issued complaint that her written comments were not included in the minutes. Suggested that library staff might be incompetent or that Director Scott was negligent.
- c. Bri Schmidt – Thanked Library Trustees and staff. Had attended an Open Meeting law training and reference and read NRS 379.025 and NRS 379.040.
- d. Naseem Jamina – Shared a great experience at Author Fest. Spoke about staff salaries and hoped they were retained. Spoke about concerns about corporate sponsorships for the libraries and concerns about challenges being faced by libraries across the country.
- e. Tara de Queinoz – Spoke about board responsibilities for Library Board Members. Suggested Library trustee training for Library Board members and offered options for said training.
- f. Drew Ribar – Spoke about comp time for library events. Presented email from a former library employee. Told audience member to “f*ck off.” Mentioned that his videos have been removed from social media, accused library staff.
- g. Cate Salim – Shared about her experience at Sparks library and how a library employees stayed calm, professional and helped her to stay safe while deescalating a patron issue.
- h. Virginia Larmore – Spoke about her use of the libraries and highlighted the welcoming spaces of our libraries especially during COVID crisis and respected proper protocol.

5) Board Comment [Non-Action Item] – Limited to Announcements, Strategic Plan Activity, Updates or Issues Proposed for Future Agendas and/or Workshops

Trustee Moser honored the memory of Martha Gould and expressed concern that her public comment was “rewritten” and part of it was not included in the packet.

Moser also asked that member of the audience refrain from cursing and use other words to get their point across.

Trustee Jacks said “hi” to her children. Jacks noted that the business of the board is at the bottom of the agenda including policy review and just wanted Washoe citizens to know. Jacks names several states across the county and stated that the Washoe County Library was going to keep up with other states changes and would address how books are selected and following policies of a “club,” ALA. Stated that she was unclear of policy process.

Vice-Chair Ruf thanked the library staff who worked on and at the Author Event and complimented staff who make our library spaces safe and welcoming for everyone.

6) Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a) Approval of Minutes from the Library Board Meeting of January 15, 2025 [For Possible Action]

Some typos were pointed out on the very first part of the meeting minutes concerning the titles of the board members.

Trustee Rodriguez made a motion to accept the minutes (with noted corrections of typo). Trustee Ruf seconded the motion.

Minutes were approved with a vote of 3 to 2. Trustee Jacks and Trustee Moser voted no.

7) Old Business

- a) Review and Approve Collection Development Policy [For Possible Action]
Debi Stears, Collection Development Manager, presented the new Collection Development Policy for board review.

The board discussed and made comments on the policy emphasizing the role of parents in helping their children make their reading selections. Clarifications were also made about the challenge process.

Trustee Jacks questioned the new Collection Development Policy. Stears clarified policy process and the improvements that have been made. Jacks further questioned rewrites in the policy and its wording regarding the responsibilities of parents for what their children choose to read. Stears clarified wording was decided through consultation with Washoe County policies and other library policies. Jacks emphasized need for Washoe citizen to understand the policy.

Vice Chair Ruf clarified that ALA is not a “club,” but a professional organization respected by all types of libraries across the country.

Chair Silver raised concerns about the timeline of responses to the challengers and the term “reasonable time” in regard to said responses.

Vice Chair Ruf moved to accept the Collection Development policy as presented. Trustee Rodriguez seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4 to 1 with Trustee Jacks voting no.

b) Review and Approve Events and Presenters Policy [For Possible Action]

Director Scott presented the Events and Presenters Policy.

Trustee Moser made a motion to approve the Events and Presenters Policy.

Trustee Rodriguez seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

c) Review and Approve Unattended Children Policy [For Possible Action]

Director Scott presented the Unattended Children's Policy.

Chair Silver expressed concern about a 13-year-old caregiver for children under 10, but understood the reasoning presented.

Vice Chair Ruf expressed support for an online caregiver commenter who was concerned about being allowed in the children's area with her grandchild with Autism. Emphasized that adults can be with their child in the children's spaces in such circumstances.

Trustee Rodriguez made a motion to approve the Unattended Children Policy.

Vice Chair Ruf Seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

8) New Business

a) None

9) Public Comment – Two 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.

- a. Cate Salim – Spoke about board training and suggested that board members read and understand Robert's Rules of Order. Urged board to demonstrate decorum as example for audience members. Encouraged board members to visit all "precious" libraries.
- b. Andrew Maurins – Library employee who spoke about DEI displays and practices in libraries and his frustration with opposition to DEI practices and the comparison of this opposition to racist practices.
- c. Jim Shirk – Requested speaker to hear meeting outside of the room. Complained about a staff member due to the location of a library chair.
- d. Drew Ribar – Announced that he would be filing a liable case concerning meeting minutes from April 2023. He called library board "liars" and referred to references to

inclusivity by library staff as “bullsh*t.” He continued to use profanity to discuss first amendment rights.

- e. Sandee Tibett – Apologized to Director Jeff Scott for accusing him of not including her public comment and admitted that she did find it in the packet as presented. She said that the board and library staff do a great job.
- f. ONLINE Janet Butcher – Expressed her concern about children under 10 in the library. Share that she went to library by herself as a child, and referenced inappropriate content.

10) Staff Announcements [Non-Action Item] No discussion or action may be taken upon any matter raised under this comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.

- a. Jeff Scott – presented document that he was given for Trustee Moser’s comment.
- b. John Crockett – Introduced Wordly app for use by anyone needing language assistance.

11) Adjournment

Chair Silver adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.