



LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, May 7th, 2025

5:30 P.M.

DOWNTOWN RENO LIBRARY 301 S Center St, NV 89501

Library Trustees:

Ann Silver, Chair

Tami Ruf, Vice Chair

Gianna Jacks, Trustee

Lea Moser, Trustee

Marie Rodriguez, Trustee

Salute to the Flag - Led by Acting Director Stacy McKenzie

1. Roll Call [Non-Action Item]

- Present – Chair Silver, Vice Chair Ruf, Trustee Rodriguez, Trustee Jacks, Trustee Moser

2. Public Comment – Three Minute Time Limit Per Person [Non-Action Item]

- Heidi Young: Expressed appreciation for the library and the services it provides to her family. Encouraged board to do the work to get the library their full funding. Supportive of Stacy McKenzie as Interim Director.
- Kaitlin Nichols: Expressed support for continuous library funding and McKenzie as Interim Director. Mentioned WC1. Emphasized the importance of libraries and that they be fully funded and staffed. Urged board to pass proposal.
- Gail Townsend: Resubmitted written comments from April 16th meeting. Mentioned Library Board Bylaws. Expressed limited confidence in the board. Questioned whether the board would work with the Interim Director or if the past would repeat itself. Hopes the search for a new director is professional.
- Penny Brock: Announced that the BCC plans to fully fund the library with no cuts. Mentioned the Washoe County Checkbook and requested clarification on library expansion fund expenditures. Concerned by Debi Stears' testimony in support of AB 416. Questioned if the board authorized Stears to attend.
- Sandee Tibbett: Thanked board. Addressed budget discussion and requested clarity on staffing FTE in the general and expansion funds. Past budgets and FTE allocations were cited. Questioned library's need for funding and expressed belief that other areas of the community would benefit from increased funding.
- Cate Salim: Shared the profound impact the library system has had on her life and the life of her children. Fully supports library funding. Expressed appreciation for library staff and urged the board to recognize the importance of libraries and library programs.
- Celia McGinty: Thanked board. Expressed appreciation for library resources and services, and how up to date the book collection remains. Asserted that libraries make Washoe County a better place to live and should be available to everyone. Urged the community to understand that even if they don't use libraries personally, they still benefit from the services they provide others. Urged the BCC to fully fund the library and the board to choose a leader who continues the library's mission.

- Maureen McElroy: Thanked board and expressed appreciation for their work. Emphasized the library's vital importance. Expressed confidence in the board to advocate for and guide the library going forward.
- Donna Clontz: Expressed support for fully funding the library. Thanked board and library for supporting and providing services to seniors. Passed out flyers about Connections project. Thanked board for their service and expressed desire to see libraries "stay vibrant".
- Douglas Miller: Thanked former director Jeff Scott for his service. Expressed that controversy isn't always bad and sometimes reflects the "messy work of democracy". Encouraged board to engage a wide search for the director and to find an "out of the box thinker" perhaps from a non-library industry. Questioned library funding needs.
- Andrea Tavener: Former Washoe County librarian. Thanked board members and staff who endured budget stress. Noted that in the past there were joint meetings between the BCC and LBOT, and suggested these meetings be reinstated.

3. Reports

a) Acting Director report by Stacy McKenzie [Non-Action Item]

- Acting Director McKenzie updated the board on the current FY25 budget for the library's general and expansion funds. Currently there is 20% left in the general fund which is right on track. McKenzie noted that the savings this year are mainly due to frozen positions. Clarified that the negative number for the expansion fund bottom line is incorrect and due to the encumbered amounts.
- McKenzie mentioned the branches need staffing and are currently struggling due to the frozen positions. Mentioned the open branch manager positions and current steps being taken to fill the openings. Hopes to hear from the county soon about frozen positions.
- Chair Silver clarified that there are millions left in the expansion budget. Questioned why there were signs on library branch doors suggesting there would be closures effective July 1st.
- McKenzie clarified that the signs were put up when the budget was uncertain and these signs are no longer on library doors now that they feel more confident of receiving a flat budget.
- Chair Silver emphasized that no layoffs will occur due to the money left in the expansion fund. Concerned the public was misled.

- Trustee Moser asked for clarification on the roll over amount for the expansion fund. McKenzie stated that the funds will roll over into the new fiscal year and those funds must be used for the library.
 - Trustee Moser asked for clarification regarding a previous meeting and her understanding that the money would roll into the general fund. McKenzie clarified that money collected after July 1st that previously would have gone into the expansion fund, will now go into a general county fund. Any money collected prior to July 1st will roll over in the expansion fund.
 - Trustee Jacks asked for clarification on the budget provided in the agenda packet. McKenzie clarified that it is the budget she provided.
 - McKenzie emphasized her excitement to work with the board on the future budgets and expressed the library's need for full funding.
 - Trustee Moser asked for clarification about a budget line item, callbacks. McKenzie explained the callback process. Chair Silver asked if this was part of the WCEA collective bargaining agreement. McKenzie confirmed.
 - Chair Silver noted again that the library budget is stable due to the expansion funds.
 - Trustee Moser asked about frozen positions. McKenzie answered that there are several frozen positions, from Library Aides to Branch Managers. All of them are vital to the efficient running of the library. Noted the need for each branch to always have one lead present and at the moment there is a shortage of leads due to frozen positions.
 - Chair Silver thanked McKenzie for her report.
- b) Washoe County Budget Report by CFO Abbe Yacoben, with Discussion and possible action for the LBOT to schedule additional meetings to discuss and work on the FY27 Library Budget. [For Possible Action]
- CFO Abbe Yacoben outlined the differences between the library's general and expansion funds. Clarified that non-expansion fund savings at the end of the fiscal year go into a general county fund to be used for all departments. Explained that the expansion fund's residual balance is estimated at 3.5 million but the exact total won't be known until after the fiscal year ends. This funding must be used for the expansion fund's original intent.
 - Yacoben echoed McKenzie's mention of a flat budget. This would be achieved by the county providing an additional 1.3 million to replace what will not be refilled in the expansion fund for FY26.
 - Yacoben outlined the next steps for assessing the library budget. She will propose a plan to the BCC that, if granted, would allocate the 1.3 million

dollars centrally in a county fund, giving the board time to investigate the library budget. The board can then vote quarterly, or as desired, to allocate money to the library as the year progresses.

- Chair Silver thanked Yacoben for her concise budget overview. Emphasized that clarification was needed and it should quell any concerns about layoffs. Repeated Yacoben's plan to check for understanding. Yacoben confirmed Chair Silver's understanding.
- Chair Silver asked when the vote will occur at the BCC. Yacoben clarified that she will propose the plan at the BCC meeting on May 13th but the vote won't occur until May 20th about the final budget.
- Chair Silver asked what the board needs to do between these two meetings. Yacoben stated that the board may want to show that they are amenable to the plan.
- Chair Silver further clarified the proposal.
- Trustee Moser thanked Yacoben for her report.
- Trustee Jacks thanked Yacoben and mentioned they had met last year to discuss the budget. Asked for information about the software programs the library used to generate the budget report. Yacoben answered that SAP is used. Trustee Jacks asked if that expense is reflected in the library budget. Yacoben answered that the library doesn't pay for SAP access outside of indirect overhead charges. Trustee Jacks asked if SAP generates time management and cash flow reports. Yacoben confirmed it does. Trustee Jacks asked if budget documents sent by the department heads are for public view. Yacoben clarified that the internal budget documents that department heads send to the county as part of their budget requests are retained per record retention laws.
- Trustee Moser asked about salary vacancy savings. Yacoben clarified that the savings can be seen in the general fund. Trustee Moser asked if the board needs to vote prior to Yacoben's proposal to the BCC. Yacoben encouraged the board to agendize a vote. She explained that if the board does not decide on the 1.3 million, it will be held centrally by the county until they make their decision. It will then be absorbed into other funds if the board decides they do not want it. Chair Silver repeated Yacoben's statement for accuracy. Yacoben confirmed.
- Chair Silver put a motion forward to take Yacoben's recommendation and to meet every two weeks. Trustee Rodriguez and Trustee Moser pointed out the motion was not on the agenda. DA Kaplan clarified it was noted for possible

action. Chair Silver took a motion, Vice Chair Ruf moved the motion forward. Moser seconded the motion. Trustee Rodriguez expressed hesitation to agendize frequent meetings. Chair Silver asked Yacoben for clarification on the deadline for their decision. Yacoben clarified that the BCC will want a discussion about the FY27 budget in late September or early October but how often the board meets is up to them. Chair Silver decided that the board is up against a deadline and moved once again to agendize frequent meetings.

- McKenzie pointed out that the FY26 budget will be the one on hold and will require a quarterly vote from the board. FY27 is the budget where 4.6 million is at risk and will require a meeting with the BCC in the fall.
- Trustee Moser asked Yacoben for clarification about the FTE discrepancy brought up by a public comment. Yacoben said she would be happy to brief the board at a later date.
- Chair Silver once again moved to agendize additional meetings to discuss the budget. Vote passed unanimously.
- Chair Silver began to address agenda item 6b when DA Kaplan noted that she was going out of order. Chair Silver acknowledged this and continued.

4. New Business (out of agenda order)

- Acknowledge the Nevada Attorney General's Office Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law regarding Open Meeting Law Complaint, file number 13897-506 [For Possible Action]
 - DA Herb Kaplan outlined the complaints from the December 2023 and January 2024 meetings. The violation from December 2023 was technical and corrected. Other complaints were found not to be violations.
 - DA Kaplan recommended that the board acknowledge the findings, facts, and conclusions.
 - Chair Silver motioned to acknowledge the findings, Vice Chair Ruf moved to accept, and Trustee Rodriguez seconded the motion. Findings were acknowledged unanimously.

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

- Trustee Rodriguez requested original agenda item 6a be added to the next meeting's agenda.

- Trustee Moser spoke on the Sparks mural and the committee she is forming for the project. Opened the invitation to join the committee to interested community members. Requested that the library bill be discussed at the next meeting, and for more discussion to be had about potential BCC and LBOT concurrent meetings.
- Chair Silver requested to hear from Collection Development Manager Debi Stears about her testimony for AB 416.
- Trustee Jacks shared that she has completed the trustee trainings. Spoke on “gate counts” and questioned if there is a way to accurately track how many patrons visit the library each day. Chair Silver asked if she would like this question agendaized. McKenzie said it will be in her report at the next meeting.
- Trustee Jacks asked about the library website and the charges incurred from its use and maintenance. Questioned who updates the website and who designed the current technology survey. Mentioned NRS 379.025 and the board’s involvement in the library budget.
- Vice Chair Ruf thanked McKenzie and library staff. Emphasized her support of the library and desire to see it fully funded. Shared that she also completed the trustee trainings.
- Trustee Moser shared her appreciation for the library’s new Administrative Assistant 1, Siera Schubach, and her prompt response to the board’s inquiries.
- Chair Silver thanked the entire library team and urged McKenzie to reassure staff that no layoffs will occur.

6. Old Business (Out of agenda order)

None.

7. New Business (Out of agenda order)

- a) Discussion and possible action to appoint Stacy McKenzie as Interim Library Director [For Possible Action]
 - a. Tabled on the advice of DA Kaplan due to McKenzie not receiving proper notice.

8. Public Comment (Out of agenda order)

- Gail Townsend: Distressed by board member comments and perceived attacks on vulnerable populations. Expressed belief that children should be able to choose their reading material. Cited survey. Noted that the library has lost 4.5 million dollars in funding due to the failure of WC1 and questioned the board’s perceived lack of support for the initiative.

- Naseem Jamnia: Questioned board member's assertion that Yacoben's presentation was the first time they'd seen a concise overview of the budget, citing the budget breakdown included in the October 2024 meeting. Expressed opinion that the flat budget proposal was only available due to community outrage at WC1's failure. Questioned how the library can be fully funded without the 4.5 million that was lost due to WC1's failure. Noted that no other county agency is as scrutinized as the library. Concerned the board will not appoint Stacy McKenzie as Interim Director due to her association with Jeff Scott. Thanked the board members who completed trustee trainings.
- Tara de Queiroz: Emphasized the importance of facts. Noted that expansion fund moneys that had been allocated for a new North Valley's library were instead used to rescue positions and prevent layoffs. Questioned what will be done once that money is gone. Urged board to listen to community members and library staff who say full funding is needed to continue library functions.
- Cate Salim: Asked board to support Stacy McKenzie as Interim Director so as to continue operations as smoothly as possible. Questioned who is paying for the recruitment of a new director. Grateful for the open meeting law discussion and that email addresses are now being redacted in the agenda packets. Mentioned the depletion of the expansion fund. Urged board to listen to librarians and treat them and community members with respect.
- Bruce Parks: Thanked board for their service and for not yet appointing Stacy McKenzie as Interim Director. Noted board members should not tolerate personal attacks during public comment.
- Bri Schmidt: Noted that all public comments need to be directed to the board. Expressed hope that the library is active and thriving in the future. Mentioned 1st, 10th, and 14th amendments. Urged board to consider the long term consequences of their decisions.
- Valerie Fiannaca: Expressed agreement with Bruce Parks' remarks. Thanked board for their service. Mentioned WC1. Expressed lack of faith in previous director and Acting Director Stacy McKenzie.
- Chair Silver thanked commentators for their "candor and sincerity".

9. Adjournment (Out of agenda order)

- Chair Silver adjourned the meeting at 7:08pm.