



LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, August 20th, 2025

5:30 P.M.

SIERRA VIEW LIBRARY 4001 South Virginia Street Reno, NV 89502

Library Trustees:

Ann Silver, Chair

Lea Moser, Vice Chair

Gianna Jacks, Trustee

Tami Ruf, Trustee

Marie Rodriguez, Trustee

0) Salute to the Flag led by Vice Chair Moser.

1) Roll Call [Non-Action Item]

- Present: Chair Silver, Vice Chair Moser, Trustee Rodriguez, Trustee Ruf, Trustee Jacks.
- Chair Silver addressed Acting Director Stacy McKenzie's absence at the meeting and announced that McKenzie was on temporary leave. Stated that an Interim Director will not be needed based on the advice of legal counsel.

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

- Diana Macky: Expressed concerns about the lack of leadership in the library system and suggested hiring an industrial psychologist to improve workplace culture.
- Judith Kenyon: Shared a positive story about her recent visit to the Northwest Branch and highlighted the various services offered by the library.
- Maureen McElroy: Emphasized the importance of the library collection and staff, illustrating the financial value of library access.
- Cate Salim: Cited the Washoe County Code of Conduct and commented on the board's behavior toward staff and officials. Urged the board to adhere to the principles of the Code of Conduct.
- Willie Pudert: Described personal harassment and admonished trustees for failing to protect staff from abuse and for their perceived undermining of the library system.
- Gail Townsend: Quoted Andrew Carnegie on the importance of public libraries and expressed skepticism about the board's ability to secure funding. Mentioned the resignation of former Director Jeff Scott and his relationship with the board.
- Carol Cooke: Questioned the agenda-setting process and the use of presentations created by the former acting director.
- Ilya Arbatman: Commented on the perceived dysfunction of the board and its impact on staff morale and funding. Expressed support for library staff.
- Douglas Miller: Urged the board to consider budget cuts and to explore leadership options from outside the library profession. Suggested combining staff positions and assigning County IT to run the meetings.
- Sandee Tibbett: Thanked the board for their service and emphasized the need for a mature and responsible library director.
- Drew Ribar: Claimed past censorship of his comments in meeting minutes and praised the board for challenging library leadership. Raised concerns about public access and legal issues.

- Elizabeth Phelon: Shared her lifelong connection to the library and emphasized the need to support staff and maintain funding.
- Bruce Parks: Encouraged the board to use an outside agency for the director search and to screen every application.
- Ashley Gaddis: Spoke about the library's role in supporting families and community and the need for stable funding. Expressed appreciation for library staff and concern that they are being overworked due to staff shortages.
- Virginia Larmore: Shared a personal story about her children's experiences at the library and stressed the importance of library funding. Expressed appreciation for library staff.
- Vida Gomez: Emphasized the importance of adequately funding library services, citing its impact on literacy and community well-being. Warned against the library being turned into a business.
- Eithne Barton: Highlighted the unique services offered by the Sierra View Library and the importance of maintaining all library services and programs. Advocated for continued library support.
- Janet Butcher: Called for accountability and suggested looking at ways to make the library more efficient. Commented on WC-1 and the need for a new North Valleys library.
- Joni Hammond: Emphasized the need to view the library through a business lens and suggested looking outside the current system for advice. Advocated for budget cuts and a business-minded approach to library operations.
- XO McBeth: Addressed anti-intellectualism and the rise of AI. Urged investment in libraries to promote community education.
- Rosie Zuckerman: Shared positive experiences at the library and emphasized the importance of keeping the library funded and staffed. Praised the welcoming environment and essential services provided by libraries, especially for low-income families.
- Valerie Fiannaca (via Zoom): Expressed confidence in the library staff and the board's ability to find a good leader. Emphasized that the library system won't collapse without a director.

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

- Trustee Ruf shared her experience at the remodeled Senior Center and thanked Sparks Branch Manager Kerry Stendell for her hard work.

- Vice Chair Moser shared her experience shadowing library courier Jerome Potash and outlined what she learned. Suggested that all newly appointed trustees should attend a similar ride along. Emphasized the library's high usage rates and encouraged fellow trustees to keep this in mind when working on the budget.
- Trustee Jacks asked for a review of previous meeting minutes to be added to the agenda. Chair Silver asked if she'd submitted what she wanted changed in the previous minutes. Trustee Jacks had not.
- Chair Silver expressed her love for the library and her dedication towards preventing cuts or layoffs. Emphasized how she supported the library during the WC-1 discussions. Mentioned the money left in the expansion fund.
- Vice Chair Moser mentioned the library's Challenge program for staff.
- Chair Silver shared that she is at the Sierra View library frequently and often wearing a hat so no one recognizes her. Thanked Branch Manager Sarah Jaeck.

4) Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Approval of Minutes from the Library Board SPECIAL meeting on July 30, 2025 [For Possible Action].
 - Trustee Jacks asked if any public comments had been emailed. Chair Silver replied in the negative.
 - On motion by Trustee Ruf, seconded by Vice Chair Moser, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Trustee Jacks voting no, the meeting minutes from July 30, 2025 were approved.

5) New Business

- a) Discussion between the Library Board of Trustees and the Office of the County Manager outlining a plan for the successful recommendation of a Washoe County Library operating budget for fiscal year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027) and possible direction to Finance and Office of the County Manager staff related to Budget needs for the Washoe County Library System [For Possible Action]
 - Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro outlined the process for preparing the budget for the fiscal year 2027. Emphasized that these changes will not impact the current budget. Emphasized that the new director will take on the budget that the board recommends and will put it into effect.
 - Mentioned the trustee trainings that four of the trustees attended where they learned about policy and board standards.
 - Solaro recommended that a special meeting be created to continue the budget discussions. Chair Silver thanked Solaro for his clarification that no changes would come to the library until next June. She recommended following Solaro's proposed schedule.
 - Discussion was temporarily interrupted by a member of the public who was concerned the board was voting on a non-action item.

- On motion by Trustee Rodriguez, seconded by Vice Chair Moser, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, the special meeting scheduled for October 1st was approved.
- Solaro moved onto policy setting and clarified that the board has purview over the number of library locations, hours, and schedule. He requested that the board look over the current hours and reach out to him individually to share their thoughts regarding possible changes by September 5th. Shared that he will take their input and work with library staff to create a plan that will be presented to the board at the September 17th meeting.
- Asked the board to consider how they view the library and what they consider to be the library's primary functions. Encouraged the board to help the public understand their point of view.
- Chair Silver expressed appreciation for Solaro's clarification and reiterated that the current budget will not be cut. Called for a vote.
- On motion by Trustee Ruf, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote.
- Vice Chair Moser suggested including ways that the library can make money, such as with a passport office, in the budget. Solaro replied that these ideas can be discussed and coordinated with County budget and finance.

6) Public Comment – Three Minute Time Limit Per Person [Non-Action Item]

- Gail Townsend: Questioned if the board had a contingency plan in place for WC-1's failure. Expressed opposition to corporate funding of the library.
- Eithne Barton: Highlighted additional library services such as "Book a Librarian," homework help, Zoom rooms, and blood pressure kits. Emphasized the need for later hours for after work access.

7) Staff Announcements [Non-Action Item]

- Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro thanked Siera Schubach and Reno Branch Manager Kristen Ryan for coordinating and running the meetings. Thanked library staff and administrators. Announced a transition to YouTube streaming for future meetings, starting in September, to better match the BCC meetings. Also announced that agendas will be transitioning to Granicus sometime in the future. Requested grace and flexibility from the public and board due to staffing shortages and unfilled vacancies. Clarified that temporary closures or reduced hours may occur but are not permanent policy changes.
- Chair Silver expressed confusion about staff vacancies. Solaro clarified that no vacancies have been filled due to the uncertain future of the budget. He shared that librarians and library staff are already feeling the pressure of an understaffed institution and that closures will occur due to these vacancies.

- Chair Silver asked if the County is recommending that these vacancies not be filled. Solaro confirmed that this is the recommendation until a clear direction is given by the board regarding the budget. Chair Silver requested Solaro confirm that this was a County decision and not the library board's. Solaro confirmed.
- Trustee Rodriguez asked if the change in hours was for FY 27 or if the changes would be implemented before the new fiscal year. Solaro replied that the hours aren't changing, but some branches may be closed due to low staffing. These changes would happen immediately.
- Trustee Rodriguez asked if public commentors will be able to use a platform like the BCC utilizes. Solaro said he would verify if Speak Up would be a useful platform.
- Chair Silver asked if Solaro would be communicating with branch managers. Solaro confirmed that he is having the operating discussions with managers.
- Vice Chair Moser requested further information on the library's vacancies. Solaro agreed to send her information.
- Trustee Jacks asked if the organizational chart that had been sent out by Stacy McKenzie was the official County chart. Chair Silver said the chart was sent at her request and was not official. She requested Solaro verify. Solaro appreciated the board's interest but reminded them that it's a different discussion based on collective bargaining and other factors. Requested that the board start with operational hours for the branches. Urged the board not to get "mired in the details" and that staffing model discussions can come later.

8) Adjournment

- Chair Silver adjourned the meeting at 7:33pm.