

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024

5:00 P.M.

SOUTH VALLEYS LIBRARY

15650-A Wedge Parkway, Reno, NV 89511

Library Trustees Present

Ann Silver, Chair

Tami Ruf, Vice-Chair

Gianna Jacks, Trustee

Lea Moser, Trustee

Al Rogers, Trustee

0) Salute to the Flag

1) Roll Call [Non-Action Item] Chair Silver present, Trustee Moser present (left meeting at 6:04 pm), Trustee Jacks present, Trustee Rogers present (via zoom).

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

1. John Wilson – Spoke in favor of LGBTQ materials and programs at the library as a valuable resource for parents, teachers and all members of the community.
2. Bruce Foster – Described and presented books for suggested donation to the library then read from a library book from the collection (was asked not to continue the recitation). Ended comments with, “We have a bunch of perverts on this board.”
3. Nathan Brown – Stated that he is speaking in support of the LGBT community and will not return due to not feeling safe from the anti-LGBTQ comments.
4. Joni Hammond – Spoke against the DSH stating she was working toward protecting children.
5. Cliff Nellis – Spoke against the LGBTQ community as being contrary to nature and, the crime of sodomy as anti-social. He spoke against Director Scott’s leadership of the library.
6. Naseen Jamnia – Spoke on support of library staff and their programming, specifying that the board should fully support voting in favor of library funding.
7. Geoff Knell – Read from the bible and said that LGBTQ is political and spoke in opposition of DSH. Stated that the library was breaking the law by hosting these programs. He ended comments complaining about being banned from the library for breaking library policy and “because Director Jeff Scott is a sexual deviant.” Called for him to be fired and said, “Jeff

Scott, keep an eye on me because I am coming for you.” He was advised by Chair Silver about making threats.

8. Val White – Stated that Director Scott should be removed from his position permanently. She discussed his presence and discussion with Director Scott at a coffee event hosted by Trustee Jacks. She listed her issues with Director Scott.
9. Janet Butcher – Complimented Trustee Jacks on her inviting the public to speak to her directly and stated her hand was up at the last meeting [via Zoom] and was ignored during the chair elections. She spoke against “sexual books” in the library collection.
10. Sandee Tibbett – Read NRS about libraries being free and accessible and in opposition to her suspension and displeasure to response time. Spoke about interactions at DSH.
11. Candace Powell – Spoke in support of “our” libraries. She expressed her support of the renewal of the tax override. She expressed alarm for the actions of the last library meeting.
12. Fred Meyer – Spoke about Miss Tibbett’s suspension. He spoke about the interaction and suspension during NV program. Asked for resolution at this meeting for the suspension, “Today.”
13. Victoria Meyer – Asked for remarks in verbatim. Chair Silver explained that she needed to submit them in writing. Spoke on separation of church and state. Spoke against DSH and interactions at that event.
14. Reva Crump – [Via Zoom] Stated that the meeting was in violation of open meeting law. Stated that there was a bylaw violation related to Trustee Rogers attending virtually. Complained about acoustics.
15. Bruce Parks – [Navada Patriot via Zoom] Stated that his observations were that hate was not coming from the “right.” Called for conversations and compromise from both sides.
16. Kelsey Penrose – [Via Zoom] expressed the difficulty of hearing speakers.

3) Approval of Meeting Minutes a) Approval of Minutes from the Library Board Meeting of June 26, 2024 [For Possible Action]

Motion to approve from Trustee Jacks, second to approve Trustee Moser

1. Gail Townsend – expressed misquote with the minutes from June and will supply written comment for correction.

Chair Silver reiterated to the audience that she encourages public commenters to type up and submit their comments if they would like them to put verbatim in the meeting minutes.

Board Vote: unanimous to approve with corrections indicated.

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

Chair Silver – Discussed policy review at upcoming meeting starting in August.

Trustee Rogers – Expressed support of updating policy.

Trustee Jacks – Expressed support for board and said she will be reaching out to the public for other events and encouraged public to email and continue to contribute. Outlined her meetings with several community departments. Discussed navigating book forms.

Chair Silver – Thanked Chair Jacks for her service and reiterated her focus on updating policies and stated she would be working with Director Scott on this. Will also be working towards developing an evaluation process for the Library Director. We will maintain and environment of respectful and productive dialog. Outlined keeping cell phones off and not mocking speakers.

5) Old Business [Non-Action Item]

None

6) New Business

a) Renew Washoe County Libraries Tax Override Presentation by Library Director Jeff Scott [Non-Action Item]

Director Scott presented an overview of the Libraries Tax Override bond issue and progress.

Trustee Jacks – asked when the poll was conducted and asked about the timeline of presenting the bond initiative.

Board took questions from the audience.

Trustee Rogers – Supports the board support of the tax renewal and expressed his continued service and support of this issue even after his service on the board.

Chair Silver – read initiative that board go out in community and speak to support the library and funding initiatives.

Board took questions from the audience.

7) Reports

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

Library director, Jeff Scott, Announced the passing of Al Stoess and gave an overview of current projects including two new legal kiosks going into the Downtown Reno and Sparks Libraries as well as an update on the new LBOT trustee process.

b) South Valleys Library Presentation by Library Branch Manager Julie Ullman [Non-Action Item]

Branch Manager, Julie Ullman and Librarian Jen Cole presented on construction updates, Summer Reading progress and programs at the South Valleys Library.

c) Reference Technology Team Presentation by [Non-Action Item]

Assistant Director, Stacy McKenzie gave an overview and PPT presentation about the Reference, Training and Technology Service Team, highlighting their work on community computer classes, the Book a Librarian Program, and the All-Staff Training Day.

8) 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.
None.

9) Adjournment at 7:00 pm.