

**Josephine Community Library District  
Regular Board Meeting and Budget Hearing Minutes  
Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 5:30 pm  
Grants Pass branch, 200 NW C Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526**

**Members present:** Laurel Samson, Gina Marie Agosta, Pat Fahey, Rachele Selvig, Brenda Aguilera

**Members absent:** none

**Staff present:** Library Director Kate Lasky, Communications & Partnership Manager Brandace Rojo, Youth Services Librarian Alyssa Donoho, Technical Services Manager Nolen Guerrero, Associate Director Michelle Rosenberger, Technical Services Coordinator Rosalynn Smith, Public Services Manager Kirsten Edwards, Early Literacy Outreach Coordinator Gabby Favazza

**Contractors:** Grants Administrator Teresa Stover

**Partners:** Josephine Community Library Foundation liaison Sue Cohen, Josephine Community Library Foundation Executive Director Rebecca Stoltz

**Public:** Dean Edwards, Alexandra Edwards, Larry Carpenter, Laura Guerrero, Matthew Hoff, Gale Shoemaker, Kathy Simmons, Karea Janssen, Debbie Cooke, Robert Cooke, Steve Chroninger

**CALL TO ORDER.** Ms. Selvig called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

#### **STANDING ITEMS**

**Approval of agenda.** No changes were made to the agenda.

**Approval of consent agenda.** Consent agenda items included:

- April 5 Budget Meeting minutes
- April 19 Board Meeting minutes
- Resolution 2023-030: Policy 3-1-6
- Resolution 2023-031: Policy 3-4-2
- Resolution 2023-032: AuthRep

**Motion:** Mr. Fahey moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Samson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Public comment.**

#1 Dean Edwards is a new volunteer at the Grants Pass branch. He expressed that national Pride Month is “Christmas for democrats” and that if the library district goes through with the display during the month of June, it would be like democrats doing a victory lap after the recent May election results. He quoted the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights which states that information presenting all points of view should be displayed in every display and felt that during national Pride Month not all viewpoints would be expressed. He suggested that Pride month displays should be done in October instead of June because of national Coming Out Day on October 11 to keep Pride Month from

appearing to be a political stunt by the library in June.

He feels like he was tricked into volunteering at an organization where he was told that he needed to leave his political and religious beliefs at the door. He also said that library volunteers need to be warned about Pride Month displays and how to handle complaints from community members who are upset about them. He also asked that the volunteer agreement form be updated to state that the library “will endorse political causes from time-to-time” and that volunteers should agree with them.

#2 Laura Guerrero has lived in Josephine County for 26 years and is a recent volunteer. She stated that the freedom to read is essential to our democracy and part of our first amendment rights and the public library is essential in upholding that. Not including all marginalized populations would be a form of censorship and unconstitutional.

She said that the freedom to read also includes religious materials and shared that as a kid she could never find books about Hannukah or with Jewish themes and is glad to see more of that now.

#3 Larry Carpenter agrees with Mr. Edwards’s statement. He shared that June 14 is the only day he celebrates in June for national Flag Day. He hopes something is done in the library on that day to celebrate the American Flag.

**Correspondence.** Ms. Lasky shared correspondence that was received by Martin Zottola supporting the freedom to read.

**Annexation petition review.** The board of directors reviewed annexation petitions from Helen Kruse, Evelyn Burden, Rachel & Grant Neemann, Neil Hooper, and Jerry Cortapassi.

**Motion:** Mr. Fahey moved to endorse five annexation petitions from Helen Kruse, Evelyn Burden, Rachel & Grant Neemann, Neil Hooper, and Jerry Cortapassi. Ms. Agosta seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

**Library director’s report.** Ms. Lasky referred to the Library Director’s Report dated May 17, 2023, highlighting the following items:

- Ms. Lasky shared that the annual spring volunteer party is on Sunday, May 21 at the Grants Pass branch.
- The library is seven years ahead of schedule for fundraising for building projects and significantly ahead of the 2030 projected timeline (drafted in 2019) for completion of construction of new libraries.
- New shelving purchased by the library foundation was installed in the Wolf Creek branch.
- Interviews for a new volunteer coordinator are underway.
- Summer Reading Program starts June 10. Registration begins on June 1.
- Library IT contractors do routine tests for phishing scams.

- **Motion:** Ms. Aguilera moved to authorize Ms. Lasky to sign a Quitclaim Deed and Lease Termination Agreement for the current Williams library building upon finalizing and completing the move of the library facilities to a new location. Mr. Fahey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial report.** Ms. Lasky reviewed the April 2023 Financial Statement memo dated May 17, 2023. She also referred to the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual–General Fund statement through May 17, 2023, the P&L statement for Enhanced Library Services (grants) through April 2023, the P&L statement for Special Funds as of April 2023, and the Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2023.

**Grants Administration.** Ms. Stover reported on the status of library district grants referring to the grant update memo dated May 17, 2023.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**FY23-24 Budget Hearing.** The board referenced the FY 2023-24 Budget Message and FY24 Budget approved by the JCLD Budget Committee on April 5, 2023.

Ms. Selvig opened the Budget Hearing at 6:07 pm and invited public comment. With no comment from the public or the board, Ms. Selvig closed the Budget Hearing at 6:08 pm.

**FY23-24 Budget and Appropriations.** Ms. Selvig invited board discussion of the FY24 budget. **Motion:** Ms. Agosta moved to approve Resolution 2023-033 to adopt the FY24 budget and make appropriations for FY23. Mr. Fahey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**FY23-24 Tax Rate.** Ms. Selvig invited board discussion of the FY24 tax rate.

**Motion:** Ms. Agosta moved to approve Resolution 2023-034 to levy the ad valorem property tax rate of 39 cents per \$1,000 assessed property value for FY23. Ms. Samson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**First reading: Policy 3-3-6. Use of the Virtual Meeting Booths.** The board of directors held its first reading of a new policy for the use of virtual meeting booths.

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

### **Library Foundation liaison report.**

Ms. Cohen reported that over \$260,000 was raised by over 200 donors during the crowdfund exceeding the goal to make the \$250,000 match from Four Way Community Foundation for the purchase of property for a new library in Grants Pass.

Oregon Community Foundation donated \$50,000 to the library foundation.

A celebration will take place on June 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm for library district and foundation board members and staff to celebrate recent capital campaign accomplishments.

The spring fundraising drive will take place the month of June.

A public celebration will take place on July 12 at the new property for the public.

**Facilities Oversight Task Force.**

Ms. Samson reported

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Comments from board members.** Ms. Selvig stated that she is glad that the library is going to remain an open place for all individuals in the community.

Ms. Selvig shared that she appreciates Ms. Aguilera's time on the board.

Referring to the Pride Month display, Mr. Fahey shared that not having a display makes just as much of a statement as having one. Ms. Lasky shared that staff has been in discussion about Pride Month display for several weeks and two board members were included in the most recent conversation so that they can be aware. The library's job is to uphold the First Amendment and freedom to read. Ms. Lasky pointed out that there is no other institution in the community where controversial topics can be explored. Ms. Aguilera shared that she is happy to see representation of marginalized communities in the library and that she hopes to see that grow as the community becomes more diverse.

**Date and agenda items for next meeting.**

The next regular board meeting will be at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, June 21.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BRojo', is written over a faint rectangular box.

Brandace Rojo for Board Secretary Kate Lasky  
Josephine Community Library District