

**Josephine Community Library District  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 23, at 5:30 pm  
Grants Pass branch | 200 NW C street, Grants Pass, OR 97526**

**Members present:** Gina Marie Agosta, Pat Fahey, Kelly Robinson, Rachele Selvig, Tina Gotchall

**Members absent:** none

**Staff present:** Library Director Kate Lasky, Communications and Partnership Manager Brandace Rojo

**Contractors:** Communications Specialist Teresa Stover

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

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Executive session:** ORS 192.660(2)(e)

Ms. Agosta moved the meeting into Executive Session: ORS 192.660(2)(e) at 5:34 pm and adjourned at 5:52 pm.

**CALL TO ORDER.** Ms. Agosta called the regular meeting back to order at 5:54 pm.

**Discussion of draft lease from Josephine County.**

Ms. Agosta shared that the library is currently in an active phase of lease negotiations with Josephine County regarding the Grants Pass branch. This phase follows a series of formal communications, legal consultations, and public engagement efforts by the library district. Most recently, representatives from both the County and the library have come together to work through the details of a potential new lease. The next step is a public presentation by Mr. Barnett to the Board of County Commissioners on August 14 for a vote.

Ms. Lasky and the board of directors discussed how grateful they are for the community's engagement during this challenging situation.

**Authorization of next steps in lease negotiation.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Fahey moved to hold no further lease negotiation meetings until the Board of County Commissioners reviews the new draft lease at their August 14 weekly business session at 10 am. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion.

Approved by Ms. Selvig.

Approved by Ms. Agosta.

Approved by Ms. Gotchall.

**Public comment.**

- Jennifer Roberts thanked the library district board and staff for all the work they've done on this effort. She expressed her disappointment at not being able to hear the details of the proposed lease agreement. She asked if the board could explain the legal reason why the board cannot share the details. She also asked

what library supporters can do during this period of waiting for the August 14 BOCC meeting when the lease will be on the agenda.

- Nancy Lester said that the August 14 meeting is the BOCC's weekly business session and is typically at 10 am at the Ann Basker Auditorium. She encouraged everyone to come to that meeting, and the weekly business sessions and administrative sessions from now until August 14. She also encouraged people to set up one-on-one meetings with all three commissioners.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

- The board and Ms. Lasky thanked the public for their ongoing engagement in this issue and stated that it made a tremendous difference in helping make progress on the lease issue. Ms. Lasky said the community's voice matters greatly. Continuing the efforts of going to meetings, sending emails, sending letters to the editor, posting and sharing in social media all continue to be important. Ms. Agosta emphasized the importance of holding the County accountable to reviewing the lease on August 14.
- Ms. Lasky explained that the library board cannot discuss the lease terms at this time because legal counsel for both the County and the library agreed that the Board of County Commissioners will review the terms first. Given the length of the negotiation process, the library board is committed to preserving progress and ensuring a respectful process for all parties involved.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The board meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Brandace Rojo for Board Secretary Kate Lasky  
Josephine Community Library District