



MINUTES
Henderson District Public Libraries
Board of Trustees

Date: January 20, 2022

Place: Paseo Verde Library

280 S. Green Valley Parkway, Henderson, Nevada

Also accessible via Zoom

Time: 7:45 a.m.

Click here for information on accessing the video conference:

<https://hendersonlibraries.com/board-of-trustees-769>

Notice is given that items on the agenda may be taken out of order. Two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration; items may be removed from the agenda or discussion delayed relating to an item on the agenda at any time. Public comment will be taken on each item as it is heard. There will be a 3 minute per person time limit during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Call to Order

Board Chair, David Ortlipp, called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m.

Roll Call

Board present: Jennifer Andricopulos, David Ortlipp, Bette Silverman

Board present (via Zoom): Angela Brommel, Kip Noschese

Board absent: James Green

Staff present: Debbie Englund, Viveca Grinstead, Sean Hill, Betsy Johnson, Kate Peraza, Lisa Phelan, Marcie Smedley

Staff present (via Zoom): Dana Friesen, Joy Gunn, Candace Kingsley, Shakita Kirkland, Michelle Mazzanti, Lori

Richardson Leona Vittum-Jones, Jessica White

Others present: Cherie Rankova

Approval of Agenda

Bette Silverman made a motion to approve the agenda. Jennifer Andricopulos seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Consent Agenda

These items are not expected to be controversial and will be considered together and approved in a single motion. Any person desiring to remove an item for separate consideration should so request before approval of the agenda. Items pulled from the Consent Agenda will be considered separately. All other consent items will be approved as one item.

CA-1 Approval of Minutes

December 16, 2021

CA-2 Review of Paid Invoices

December 2021

Bette Silverman made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Jennifer Andricopulos seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Director's Report

Possible Board discussion of the Director's report or various staff reports highlighting various administrative and staff activities since the last meeting

Viveca Grinstead, the district's accountant, gave the 2nd quarter financial report. Tax revenues: advalorem taxes came in at 57% and consolidated came in at almost 30%. Both came in higher than budgeted. Salaries and benefits are exactly where they need to be. Part-time came in lower because of shelve vacancies as we move to open those as automated materials handling specialists. The supplies account is a little under budget for basic library costs because the district is still operating with limited programming. Utility services and books, which are encumbered from the start of the fiscal year, are static. The financial report is right where it should be.

Marcie Smedley gave an update regarding the discussions around wearing masks in programs. The team did meet and have further discussion. Due to the current surges no changes are being made. This will be monitored, and feedback provided.

West Henderson Library construction continues to progress. The contractor expects completion in March, with shelving being delivered in May due to supply issues. It has been hard to get steel. The team is working to identify some popup events and limited services that can be offered until the shelving is installed.

Green Valley Library construction also continues. Full reopening is expected in late April when the carpet can be installed.

Marcie Smedley gave an update on the outreach vehicle. Good news! At the last board meeting we were waiting to meet with Vegas Custom Food Trucks to see if they were able to do the work to create the custom box to go on a truck to create an outreach vehicle. The meeting happened and they can do it cheaper than the fabricators in Colorado (who have done this type of work for other libraries). The turnaround time is within the grant cycle, so it is likely the work can be done within the needed time frame. It was anticipated the district would need to ask for an extension to the grant cycle, so we are grateful we will not have to do that.

After confirming Vegas Custom Food Trucks could do the project, Marcie Smedley worked with the Ford Country Fleet Manager, pursuant to the state purchasing contract; as luck would have it, there was a Ford 250 available on the lot that day. The district was able to obtain the truck with special contract pricing. The truck is in the Paseo Verde Library parking lot and will be insured and registered; then the truck can go to Vegas Custom Food Trucks to be measured for a final quote. It is anticipated the outreach vehicle will be ready to go this summer. It's great to be able to make progress on this project and keep the business local. Staff are excited to work with a company that is excited to work with us. Vegas Custom Food Trucks have some varied experience, creating food trucks, nail salon trucks and gaming trucks. They have never created an outreach/book vehicle and are looking forward to the project. The Board will be kept posted. David Ortlipp said that is good news. It had been discussed the grant money may have to be returned. Bette Silverman asked if the truck is similar in size to the first one the district was interested in. Marcie Smedley said yes, it will be put together with the same specifications. There may be an opportunity to increase our grant spending due to awarded funds that came back unused. The district can request 25% more, so it may not be necessary to put as much of the library district's funds into the project.

New Business

1. Discussion and possible Board action regarding Executive Director contract

David Ortlipp said the Executive Director contract is up in June. As outlined in the contract, the Board must advise the Executive Director by February 19th of the intent to renew the contract. This allows a few months to do the renewal process, terms, and conditions. But the Board must formally say it will enter negotiations.

David Ortlipp asked for public comment.

Cherie Rankova stepped forward and introduced herself as a Henderson resident. She said she came here to talk about was the in-person programming mask mandate that is more restrictive here than at the Las Vegas-Clark County Libraries [LV-CCLD]. David Ortlipp said this may not be the appropriate public comment period for these comments. Ms. Rankova disagreed, saying the Board is discussing Marcie Smedley's contract. Ms. Rankova said she has concerns with Marcie Smedley proceeding as Executive Director.

Ms. Rankova said she completed a comparison of Henderson Libraries versus LV-CCLD by comparing the Paseo Verde Library with the Whitney Library:

Whitney Library opened its doors to in-person visits on June 24, 2020. Paseo Verde Library opened its doors to in-person visits on March 1, 2021. This is 250 days after Whitney Library re-opened.

Whitney Library began in-person programming on August 1, 2020. Paseo Verde Library resumed in-person programming October 2, 2021. This is an additional 427 days after Whitney Library resumed in-person programming.

Paseo Verde Library in-person programming with further restrictions has gone on for 110 days and as of today, continues.

Cherie Rankova said she is sure Marcie Smedley has done some wonderful things during her tenure, but this comparison highlights some big problems with the Henderson Library District.

The Governor set mandates and the Paseo Verde Library pursued its own matters. The comparison of the two libraries highlights some extreme problems with the Henderson Libraries District. In summary, Henderson Libraries closed for 250 days extra for in-library visits, took 427 extra days to resume in-person programming and an extra 110 days of restrictions higher than Governor mandates. This shows the problems with this district.

Ms. Rankova returned to her seat.

David Ortlipp asked if there was any other public comment. There was not.

David Ortlipp said this is a formality to allow the board to continue to negotiate Marcie Smedley's contract. David Ortlipp said over Marcie Smedley's tenure she has always had great appraisals; his personal view is that negotiations should be entered into for the renewal of Marcie Smedley's contract.

Bette Silverman concurred, saying in the time she has served on the Board, Marcie Smedley has been open, kept everyone in the loop, and listened to employees, creating a positive work environment, particularly with the pandemic that none of us have experienced before. Forging new ground is difficult. At times, hesitating on the side of greater safety is just a little better for both staff and patrons. Bette Silverman concurred with the renewal of the contract.

Kip Noschese said Marcie Smedley started a creative growth at the beginning of the pandemic, and the library district is still staged to open a new library in Henderson. Marcie Smedley has managed things very well and been very prudent about considering all our community together. Kip Noschese stated support for continuing the contract.

Angela Brommel referred to an example from the beginning of the meeting. Here we are in the middle of a pandemic with supply chain issues. It looked like the library district wouldn't get that outreach truck. Not only has Marcie Smedley guaranteed that grant funding won't be lost, but those funds will go further in this new way, *and* more funding is being secured. A lot of growth has happened during this time and Angela Brommel stated fully supporting going ahead with the contract.

Jennifer Andricopulos agreed. The Board should go forward and proceed with looking at the Executive Director contract and renewing it.

David Ortlipp said last year the Board noted the questionnaires were more staff related with the same questions were given to the Board; it was decided this year the Board would review and perhaps refine the evaluation process. There is plenty of time to review the process and forms before the contract deadline in June.

David Ortlipp asked Bette Silverman and Jennifer Andricopulos to work on this for the Board over the next few months. Bette Silverman is experienced on personnel matters and Jennifer Andricopulos has valuable experience to bring to the effort. The contract will also be reviewed to see if changes are needed. This will allow the Board a few months to get it done. David Ortlipp asked for a motion of the Board intention to renew the Executive Director's contract.

Jennifer Andricopulos made a motion to approve the Board's intention to renew the Executive Director's contract. Bette Silverman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Old Business

None

Announcements

The next Board meeting will be **February 17, 2022**, at the Paseo Verde Library, 280 S. Green Valley Parkway, Henderson, Nevada.

Public Comment

David Ortlipp asked for public comment.

Cherie Rankova returned to the lectern, introducing herself as a Henderson resident living 1-1/2 miles from the Paseo Verde Library. Referring to November and December Henderson Libraries Board meeting minutes, Cherie Rankova said she would like to clarify something from the December minutes. Ms. Rankova said she wanted to let the Board know that she is appreciative that Marcie Smedley is taking into account the American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC [Center for Disease Control] guidelines requiring mask usage for children. Cherie Rankova is still concerned about the in-person program usage of those mandates. One of the entities say, "strongly

recommend” the other says “should”, “should” is not an obligatory word. Ms. Rankova’s concern is Marcie Smedley’s interpretation of that. With the surge or not, the LV-CCLD neighboring libraries do not have the more restrictive mask guidance. LV-CCLD has always adhered to the Nevada governor’s directives, including directive 24 that has an exemption for children. Ms. Rankova still feels this is something that needs corrected. Again, the dates as outlined previously, Henderson Libraries closed for 250 days extra for in-library visits, took 427 extra days to resume in-person programming and an extra 110 days of restrictions higher than Governor mandates. The 2-year anniversary of the start of the pandemic is coming up. Children like her son have been under the restriction half of their lives. And this library has taken further restrictions that are not necessary. Especially when there is the Governor’s directive and his Nevada health response team that assists in developing those directives. Last time Cherie Rankova checked she did not see a health response team from the library.

David Ortlipp said Patricia Iannuzzi has resigned from the board. Her tenure was brief, but she offered good insight and suggestions. David Ortlipp took the opportunity to thank Patty Iannuzzi for her service and wish her the best. Marcie Smedley agreed and said Patty Iannuzzi was very helpful, a nice presence on the board, and she (Marcie Smedley) looks forward to continuing a relationship with Patty; Patty Iannuzzi can provide mentoring and advice. David Ortlipp will be working with the City of Henderson to find people to fill the open board position. Stay tuned.

Note: Pursuant to Nevada’s Open Meeting Law, action may not be taken on matters presented during this period until included on a future agenda as an action item.

Adjournment 8:07 pm

Pursuant to NRS 241.020, written notice of the meeting of Henderson District Public Libraries’ Board of Trustees was posted by January 13, 2022.

Posted at hendersonlibraries.com, the State of Nevada Public Notice Website, Henderson City Clerk’s Office, Paseo Verde Library, Green Valley Library, and the James I. Gibson Library.

For details of the agenda, or to leave public comment before the meeting, please call the administrative offices at 702-207-4298.