

**Salt Lake County Library Board of Directors  
Whitmore Library  
17 July 17, 2017**

**Attending:** Paul Benner, Chair; Adam Gardiner, Nancy Thorne, Richard H. Nixon, Kristin Covili, Chelsea DiFrancesco, Cynthia Mecklenburg

**Others:** Holly Yocom, Jim Cooper, April Townsend, Liam Keogh, Pamela Park, Leslie Webster, Liz Anguiano. Kent Dean, Laura Renshaw, Deidra Townsend, Cheryl Mansen, Liz Sollis, Jennifer Fay, members of the public, John Jackson, Steve Jorgensen, Steve Van Maren

Paul Benner called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

**Welcome – Deidra Townsend, Whitmore Library Manager**

Deidra Townsend has worked at Whitmore Library for two years and has been the manager for five months. She introduced Laura Renshaw who is the assistant manager.

They have recently hired a new youth services librarian and are building up a team to meet the demand for storytimes.

They will be offering basic classes in using digital devices because they have found people still need help.

In December, as part of the library's "Year of Inclusion" series, they will focus on religious diversity.

Coventry Residency assisted living in the neighborhood has asked the library to do a music program that will connect older adults and families with kids.

Paul Benner said that Whitmore is his home library and commented on how helpful the staff is.

**Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Richard H. Nixon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from both the open and closed sessions in June and the July 11 electronic meeting. Cindy Mecklenburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments**

Steve Jorgensen lives in Brighton and serves on their community council. People in the community live 30 minutes from Whitmore Library and 80 percent of them don't have internet access. They are putting "Little Libraries" in the community and asked for surplus books and shelves from the library to support them.

Jim Cooper said we have a similar service in Alta with discarded materials and magazines. He doesn't have a problem with offering the same to the Brighton folks. We can task Sandy or Whitmore Libraries to support the services.

Steve Van Maren asked what we do with the Draper staff while their library is closed and when Draper Library will be reopening.

Human Resources Manager Pamela Park said they have been deployed to other libraries.

April Townsend, Associate Director Finance and Operations said we are replacing LED lighting and carpeting and are 80 percent finished. Draper City has to sign off on some items.

Library Director Jim Cooper explained that whenever we do have to close a library we redeploy staff, usually to nearby libraries that are impacted.

Liz Sollis, Marketing Manager commented that this is a great opportunity to do cross training.

There was no correspondence.

### **Library in Media** – Liz Sollis, Marketing Manager

The library has received media coverage about

- Naloxone kits for librarians to be able to administer a dose in case of an overdose incident.
- Solar eclipse programs.
- Remembering Vietnam – and advanced screening and panel discussion of the Ken Burns documentary.
- Celebrating Refugees, a Year of Inclusion event Columbus Library is hosting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Request for Reconsideration of Materials** – John Jackson, Member of the public Jim Cooper and the Board have received a request for reconsideration of two films, *Archangel* and *The Silence*, from John Jackson. Jim reached out to the DA to answer Mr. Jackson's assertion that they contained child pornography or pornography or were obscene. Melanie Mitchell from the DAs office viewed the films in their entirety and rendered an opinion that they meet the Library's Material Selection policy and do not contain child pornography or pornography. Jim upheld the staff decision to retain the materials in our collection based on the DAs opinion.

Mr. Jackson appealed to the Board to remove the items from the collection.

Mr. Jackson shared his credentials as a retired high school art teacher and explained that he discovered the films he is concerned about while browsing the library's collection. His concerns include:

Child safety, which he said transcends other considerations.

The DVDs are unmarked and could be provided to sex offenders and predators.

*The Silence* has been censored for American audiences. The library version is uncensored. (It contains subtitles.)

The producers, Steve Madden, Federico Fellini and Ingmar Bergman, endanger child safety by showing adult sexuality in context with children and the library is a place for children.

He referred to graphic images containing bondage, discipline, dominance and submission, and sadomasochism (BDSM).

The fact that no DVDs have been removed because of complaint precludes community involvement and seems authoritarian and evasive.

He would like a subcommittee to engage in a discussion of child safety concerning these films. He said the Supreme Court validates community consensus and accedes this to the states. He would concede to a group consensus of an impartial panel.

Jim Cooper responded to Mr. Jackson.

There is no policy that no DVDs be removed from our collection. We have had complaints about other DVDs and none have met a criteria to be removed because we comply with our Material Selection Policy. The films have been reviewed by an adult DVD selector and met the selection guidelines. There is no overt child pornography or child endangerment.

The DVDs are marked as foreign films and children cannot check them out, just as they cannot check out R-rated materials.

Adam Gardiner asked if the boy in the film is explicitly nude.

Liam Keogh said in reviewing the film he did not see explicit child nudity.

Adam said his only concern is, is it explicit and are they under 18. If it's not, it wouldn't be child pornography.

Paul Benner said that we deferred to the DAs Office to determine whether this was pornography by legal standards or not. An individual may consider something pornographic but what matters is the legal definition.

Mr. Jackson said he is not claiming this obscene or pornographic but he does see BDSM.

Kristin Covili said, "As early childhood specialist, the responsibility falls on the parents to determine if a child will be exposed to this."

Nancy Thorne made a motion to support the DAs opinion of these films and the administration's opinion to not remove them from the library's collection. Adam Gardiner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

They meet the Material Selection Policy and Board is upholding the decision of library administration and the DAs Office.

Adam Gardiner moved that we move into closed session to discuss building projects. Kristin Covili seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Recommendation on Property Acquisition** – Jim Cooper, Library Director  
No recommendation on property acquisition was needed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**2018 Budget Overview** – Leslie Webster, Administrative and Fiscal Manager  
Starting July 18 the Management Team will review all budget requests. The 2018 budget needs to be a flat budget. It is the responsibility of the Board to provide financial oversight.

Why budget? We are allocating scarce resources. We are spending public funds and should never forget whose money it is.

No one else in the County can spend our funds. The majority of our funding comes from property taxes. We also receive about 1.6 million dollars from fines and fees and the jail pays for the library services it receives.

Budget sectors are set up by the County. We can't move money between sectors without Council approval but we can move money between account codes.

In the Personnel sector we prefer to use subs before we use overtime.

COGS refers to cost of goods sold.

Each branch has a budget. We also have central budgets such as for marketing, facilities and training. The associate directors have flexibility over all the budgets they are over.

The budget is a flexible document. Managers can request additional funding.

The overall budget is flat (total numbers are the same as last year), but branch and department budgets are fluid and not necessarily the same as last year.

Richard H. Nixon asked how we monitor the purchase cards Leslie Webster has to approve all 750 transactions. There is a tiered approval with the direct supervisor approving first and Leslie giving the second and final approval.

It isn't a preapproval process. An employee may have to take an item back or reimburse the County if a purchase isn't appropriate.

Managers approve an employee getting a purchase card. Employees go through training. We have restrictions on the types of items a person can make on the card.

Cards are most heavily used by IT, Facilities, Marketing, and branches for programming supplies.

Internal auditors and County Contracts also monitor transactions.

We are expected to have a 5-year plan. We have to have five percent of the current year's expenses in reserve. We plan on not spending four percent of the personnel budget and one percent of the operating budget.

The Board has responsibility for the Library's finances and members need to know what kind of controls we have in place. Leslie is happy to meet with any Board member who is interested in learning more about the budget process.

**Outreach & Programming** – Kent Dean, Associate Director Outreach & Programming  
Because of time the Outreach and Programming agenda item was deferred until next month.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

**Statistics** – Jim Cooper

We want to have a fuller discussion with the Board about statistics. Are they meaningful? Are we collecting what we need to? What is the result of our efforts?

**Human Resources Update** – Pamela Park, Human Resources Manager

Gordon Bradberry, Associate Director of Technology has resigned we are looking at how we want to fill that position.

**Marketing Update** – Liz Sollis, Marketing Manager

Liz handed out copies of the July/ August *Connect* and flyers of upcoming programs. She highlighted the Clean Air Utah event. A light dinner is being funded by the Aspen Institute. Ninety people are slated to attend.

Other programs and events being sponsored by the Library:

- We All Eat at Columbus Library as part of the Year of Inclusion
- Solar eclipse programs
- Discover Earth exhibit
- ToshoCon, a teen led convention in which 1,000 or more kids participate

We have extra Summer Reading t-shirts if any Board members are interested.

**Finance and Operations** – April Townsend, Associate Director Finance & Operations

April thanked Leslie Webster and Liz Anguiano for keeping the budget on track.

*Chelsea DiFrancesco made a motion to adjourn. Kristin Covili seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.