

City of Bellevue Library Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2023

OPENING

The regular monthly meeting of the Library Advisory Board (the "Board") was called to order at 5:01 PM on November 21, 2023 by Jim Rusk, President. The meeting was held in person at the Bellevue Regional Library with an option for hybrid attendance via Zoom.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Sam Fetchero, Gunjan Murarka, Kat Pipkin, Sarah Rock (remote), Jim Rusk, and Imran Siddique (remote).

Board Members Absent: Kim Anderson

KCLS Representative(s): David Frappier, Amy MacClanathan, Imtiaz Arshi

Friends of the Bellevue Library: NONE

Newport Way Library Association: NONE

Guests: NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes for October 2023 were approved as written.

APPEARANCES AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Agenda Item #1: Intellectual Freedom Committee Presentation

Amy MacClanathan, Assistant Operations Manager for Lake Hills and Newport Way Libraries, and Imtiaz Arshi, Public Services Assistant at Bellevue Regional Library, gave a presentation on Intellectual Freedom. KCLS is in the middle of a year-long campaign to celebrate the Freedom to Read, as well as promote the importance of Intellectual Freedom. More info on website <https://kcls.org/intellectual-freedom/>

KCLS believes that intellectual freedom is a basic human right as outlined in Article 19 of the UN's Universal Human Rights document. All community members should have free access to information.

Some key highlights from the presentation include:

- Libraries are limited public forums. Libraries protect confidential nature of information requests.
- Libraries aren't here to defend specific titles but a person's right to read, view or listen to information
- Libraries must balance their scope with demand. KCLS seeks to represent all community members in their collections.

- Libraries offer spaces where community members are empowered to access information. Information needs are personal.

Amy shared a helpful summary quote: “We have something for everyone but not everything for someone.”

KCLS staff answered questions from board members:

- Kat asked if the presentation was available to the public. Staff shared that any group can request this presentation and materials from it are also available on the KCLS website.
- Jim asked several questions about book bans. Are book ban efforts mainly grassroots or organized? Have we had book challenges in the Bellevue region? Staff responded that book bans are a mix. We have had book challenges in Bellevue, but most have been verbal challenges. As well most of the recent challenges have been directed at programs such as Rainbow Story Time. Staff also developed a material evaluation policy over the past year to clarify materials selection and purchasing decisions. This is available online: <https://kcls.org/material-evaluation-policy/>
- Board members asked if staff received de-escalation training.
- Sam asked how KCLS promotes parental involvement. Staff shared that there is a parental responsibility policy. <https://kcls.org/parent-responsibility-policy/>
- Imran asked if there are policies about what can be done in libraries. Staff shared there are various policies such as meeting room policy that outline what can/not be done in meeting rooms <https://kcls.org/room-policy/> and the grounds policy outlines what can be done on the library grounds <https://kcls.org/special-use-of-library-facilities-and-grounds-policy>

Agenda Item #2: Bylaws discussion (continued)

Imran shared his comparison of City of Bellevue Ordinance 6752 with respect to other Bellevue boards and commissions. Jim and Sam took an action item to review Imran’s comparison to develop proposed bylaw changes for the board to consider at future meetings.

Board members discussed the of purpose of the advisory board. How can the board effectively support the the Lakeview region libraries (Bellevue, Crossroads, Lake Hills and Newport Way).

REPORTS

Report #1 – Bellevue Library staff reports

David Frappier shared that the KCLS Board of Trustees appointed Angie Miraflor to serve as Interim Executive Director, effective December 19, 2023. The search for a permanent Executive Director is underway.

Report #2 – Bellevue Friends of Library

Susan Peterson was absent. There was no Bellevue Friends of the Library report.

Report #3 – Newport Way Library Association

Kim Anderson was absent. There was no Newport Way Library Association report.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.

UPCOMING: There will be no December meeting. The next meeting will be held on January 16, 2024 at Bellevue Regional Library at 5:00. The meeting agenda will be distributed before the next meeting.

Minutes Submitted: By Sarah Rock

Approved at the January 16, 2024 Bellevue Library Advisory Board Meeting.