

Basalt Regional Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 4, 2021
14 Midland Avenue
Basalt, CO 81621
Special Meeting
Emergency Circumstances to Allow Teleconferencing

Call to Order: The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Basalt Regional Library District was called to order on January 4, 2021 at 5:18 PM.

Member Attendance: Enid Ritchy, President; Karen Barch, Treasurer; Christi Blish, Secretary; Becky Musselman, Trustee; Ryan Anslyn, Trustee

Also Present: Sue Kiley, Library Director; Sandra Dexter, Administrative Assistant; Caroline Cares, Youth Services Assistant Director, Berenice Forrest, Assistant Director

Citizen Comments

None

Board Comments

- Colleen Irvin is the new Board member for Pitkin County. She is filling the seat vacated by Victoria Treece and will be attending the next Board meeting. Enid Ritchy will speak with Colleen about joining some committees. Karen Barch recommended looking to April to determine who is on the committees since some members are transitioning off the board.
- Becky noted that the Policy Committee is planning to meet later this month. They will look at expanding the Library's fine free policy to eliminate fines across the board in an effort to extend good will and eliminate barriers where possible. Although it seems counterintuitive, studies show that more materials are returned when there are no fines. Garfield County just announced that they have eliminated all fines. In 2018, the Policy Committee investigated across the valley and found we were ahead of the curve when we went fine free on youth materials. Expansion of their investigation across the state and the nation showed that more libraries are going fine free. The Committee would like to get an informal pulse of where the Board stands on this so Becky will send research materials to Sue to pass on to the Board members. Currently, fines are being waived due to quarantining of materials. Patrons are still charged for lost and damaged items. Patrons receive a notice one month after an item is checked out and they get billed two months after the item is checked out. There aren't penalties for electronic materials because these automatically go away on the due date. Karen recommended making the elimination of fines effective January 1, 2022 or finding another source, perhaps a donor, to cover the \$5,000 revenue from fines included in the break-even 2021 budget.

Director's COVID Update: Sue Kiley

- As of January 4, 2021, the governor moved all red counties back to orange level. Pitkin County is still enforcing some stronger restrictions than required. Vaccinations are beginning for age 70 and older. Sign up procedures vary with different counties. There is still uncertainty about where library workers will fall, but will likely be in the spring list. The Colorado Vaccination Plan has three phases.
 - Phase 1A was front-line health care workers.

- Phase 1B is age 70 and up and some health care workers and other essential workers including grocery store workers. What other workers might be added to that list is still being determined. It is unknown if library workers will be added to this list.
- Phase 2 in the spring will open up to 60-69 age group, others at higher risk and other essential workers. It is unknown if library will be added to this list
- Phase 3 in the summer is for the general public age 16 and up.
- We might have more information closer to January 15th when the state is projecting giving vaccines to all the front-line health care workers who want one.
- Christi asked if library staff has been relieved of wiping down surfaces with less evidence that COVID is carried on surfaces. Sue noted that we have cut back the quarantine period to 24 hours but that it is still flu season. We are using laptop computers that are easier to clean and switch out so we have less to clean at the moment.

Additional Questions and Updates

- Karen asked how things are going in the library. Sue reported that we are getting a lot of good feedback with only one complaint in the last month from a patron who wanted more privacy to use the computer. We have dividers up and hot spots and Chromebooks are available for checkout. Phone calls and online chat are increasing. Take and Make crafts go quickly for adults and kids. Curbside pickup is still very busy. Overall, things are very positive. Becky said the reading of "The Night Before Christmas" by staff was really great and the Tea Party was funny. She said both were fabulous and well done. It was fun to see the entire staff involved.
- Ryan asked if we are starting to think about things to do for the community members who have been most locked down, especially seniors. Specifically, in person events as more people get vaccinated and once current restrictions are lifted. Maybe a movie beginning in March. Christi suggested a party for people who have had vaccines.
- The Legends of the Library event is Friday, January 8th. It will run for approximately 30-45 minutes. Some filming was done today and staff is working on editing.
- Strategic Planning Committee: Christi will send a memo shortly (through Sue) to Committee members to update them on activities since the last Committee meeting, and will also update Board members at the next Board meeting.

Meeting Adjournment

- Christi moved and Ryan seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:47 PM.
- The next meeting is January 18, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Christi Blish
Christi Blish, Secretary

2/15/21
Date