



MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Present at the meeting were: Susan Kiefer (President), Patty Jensen, Marissa Barrientos Shepherd, Marta Tarantsey and Kevin Keating.

Additional attendees: Kari May (Library Director), Kelda Vath (Assistant Director, Support Services), Joan Vigil (Assistant Director, Public Services), Bryn Fogerty (HR Manager), Jacqueln Bunick (Legal Counsel), and Erinn Agne (Finance Assistant)

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Director Kiefer called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Roll call was taken, and the Land Acknowledgement read.

INTRODUCTIONS / PROCLAMATIONS

Director Brown read a proclamation declaring October 20-26 as Friends of the Library Week 2025.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Director Tarantsey moved to approve the consent agenda; Director Jensen seconded, the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

ORAL REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE

None.

REPORTS

Director's Report

Programs Coordinator, Brystan Strong gave a detailed and engaging recap of this summer's reading program. She shared overall statistics, noting an impressive total of 47,236 books read and 985,154 minutes logged, a significant increase from last year. Participants used Beanstack, a digital platform that tracks reading progress and rewards readers with badges and other incentives, to log their activity throughout the summer. Strong also shared a comparative graph that showed that, while reading participation was up in 2025 as compared to 2024, program attendance was slightly down this year. She plans to follow up with staff to better understand what types of programs were most successful, and whether factors like timing or day of the week impacted attendance. She also went over Program Optimization Project (POP) Patron Survey sneak peek, with a total 287 total responses as of now. Despite the dip in program attendance, Strong expressed that she is pleased with how the summer reading program went overall.

Library Director May highlighted several exciting developments from the past month, starting with the celebration of Latinx Heritage Month. She also shared that the Applegate Branch launched its first class for the Entrepreneurs in Residence program, marking an important milestone. While visiting the Applegate Market this past summer, May had the opportunity to meet both of the entrepreneurs in residence, which made seeing the program in action even more meaningful. Another recent highlight was the successful wrap-up of a four-part OLLI series on library services, which showcased the many valuable resources the library offers. A recording of the series is now available on the JCLS Beyond YouTube channel. May also reflected on the Enchanted Library

Fair held at the Medford Library and noted that feedback from the event has been positive. She even ran into a Friends of the Library volunteer who shared how much they enjoyed the event, and how excited they are for the next one.

Looking ahead, May mentioned an exciting upcoming visit from Jess Walter, a nationally recognized author. She noted that his Tuesday evening writer's workshop at the Medford Library is already at capacity, showing strong community interest. On Wednesday, Jess Walter will give a public presentation on his newest novel, *So Far Gone*, which is partially set in Grants Pass and the Pacific Northwest.

And just for fun, May shared that the Central Point Branch joined in on Alaska's Fat Bear Week celebrations. The branch displayed charming posters and artwork created by local elementary school students, who chose their favorite bears and submitted their drawings. May had a chance to see the display during a recent visit and shared how delightful it was.

Staff Day

HR Manager Brynn Fogerty shared highlights from the recent Staff Day and expressed her appreciation to the Board members who were able to attend. This mandatory professional development day was held at Rogue X. The day included three breakout professional development sessions and two keynote speakers, offering staff a range of valuable learning opportunities. Brynn noted that the event was a great success overall and has received a lot of positive feedback from attendees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

JCLD JCLF MOU Amendment

Director Kiefer and Library Director May presented a noted redundancy in Section 2 of the agreement. The MOU has been amended to remove the phrase "*is not approved by the JCLD Board,*" as it was unnecessary and created confusion. The clarification ensures that if neither JCLD nor JCLF moves to approve the MOU, it simply will not continue.

MOTION: Director Jensen moved to approve JCLD JCLF MOU Amendment 4, Director Tarantsey seconded; the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

State Annual Statistical Report

Kelda Vath, Assistant Director of Support Services, shared the State Annual Statistical Report. Board members received it in the packet containing the most recent data collected for the FY25 state report, which included responses to all previously submitted board questions. She expressed confidence in the accuracy of this year's data and highlighted that the team continues to learn and improve with each reporting cycle. Most of the report data had been reviewed during an earlier work session, where board members examined data sources and discussed what information would be included in the final submission. The report is on track to be submitted by the end-of-month deadline.

Motion: Director Keating moved to approve Annual Statistical Report Director, Jensen seconded; the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Policy 5-8 Internet Acceptable Use

Kelda Vath, Assistant Director of Support Services, presented redlined and final copies of Policy 5-8: Internet Acceptable Use. The Policy Committee met on October 6 to review and recommend updates. Revisions included reorganizing content for clarity, adding a new Wi-Fi section, and clarifying compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and age-related guidelines. The changes were developed in collaboration with IT Manager Cameron Tippins and were part of the regular policy review cycle.

Motion: Director Tarantsey moved to approve Policy 5-8 Internet Acceptable Use, Director Jensen seconded; the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Policy 5-18 Land Acknowledgement

Brynn Fogerty, HR Manager, presented 5-18 Land Acknowledgement Policy. The Board discussed amendments to the Land Acknowledgement. Board members expressed differing views. Some raised concerns that referencing a specific group might be divisive or outside the library's scope, while others found the terminology potentially exclusionary. Others supported keeping and refining the statement to acknowledge the land's history and the experiences of Indigenous peoples. Legal Counsel Bunick and Library Director May noted that the purpose is to consider the revised versions of the existing policy, voting would concern only the proposed amendments and that voting against the motion would leave the current policy unchanged. Additional clarification was provided regarding the reading of the Land Acknowledgement at meetings including Board Work Sessions and regular Board Meetings at any meeting. Director Jensen suggested a future Board Work Session to allow for additional discussion and background view.

Motion: Director Jensen moved to approve Policy 5-18 Land Acknowledgment, Director Tarantsey seconded; the motion passed.

Roll call vote for Policy 5-18 Land Acknowledgement

Kiefer- Yes

Tarantsey- Yes

Jensen- Yes

Shepherd- Yes

Keating- No

The motion passed, 4 to 1

Budget Committee Recruitment

Director Kiefer discussed with the Board recruitment for Library's District Budget Committee, noting terms of two citizen members expiring in December of this year. The Budget Committee, defined by state statute, includes the five elected Board members and an equal number of appointed citizen members, who serve three-year terms. Its main role is to review and approve the proposed annual budget before Board adoption. Typically, the committee meets in March and May, with the adoption of the budget made by the Board before the end of June.

The Board discussed the recruitment process. Director Shepherd emphasized the importance of casting a wide net to attract applicants with diverse skills, backgrounds, and representation from different parts of the District. The selection process involves application reviews and interviews by two Board Members, the Library Director, and Finance Manager, Heather Scott. The final recommendations are presented to the full board for appointment. The Board agreed to appoint Patty Jensen and Marissa Shepherd as the two board members who will participate in the selection process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Committee Meeting

The Facilities Committee reported that the art project has received approval, the installation has been scheduled, and the artist's contract has been finalized with work already in progress. The final design was previously presented in the Director's report. No further major updates were discussed. Committee members also expressed their appreciation for the well-organized and engaging staff day event

Director Kiefer adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

/s/ Yoli Diaz - Recording Secretary