

Jackson County Library District

Board Meeting

August 7, 2014

Adams Room, Medford Library
205 South Central Avenue, Medford

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by President Jill Turner.

Present:

Carol Doty, Director

Susan Kiefer, Director

Maureen Swift, Director

Jill Turner, President

Monica Weyhe, Vice President

Lisa Garcia, Jackson County Library Business Manager

Kim Wolfe, Jackson County Library Director

Mark Bartholomew, District Counsel

Betsy Randolph, Recording Secretary

Members of the Public and Press

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. July 3, 2014. Director Doty moved to approve the minutes as presented, Director Swift seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. July 8, 2014. Director Doty moved to approve the minutes as presented, Director Swift seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. July 17, 2014. Vice President Weyhe moved to approve minutes as corrected by deleting paragraph two under section two, *Consideration of a Library District Permanent Tax Rate*. (The subject was represented elsewhere in the minutes.) Director Kiefer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. A Resolution Authorizing the Chair of the Library District Board to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Jackson County and Jackson County Library District for Library Facilities and Services

The Board discussed the contract at length, both generally and specifically.

Vice President Weyhe said that members of the board needed "to discuss two issues of concern in the contract: 1) The question of payment based on actuals verses budgeted

amount, and 2) The lack of detail of the scope of services (administrative, financial, fiscal, and legal support services) which are first described in 2.1 and then again in 3.4."

Director Doty made note that although exhibit B, the County's FY 2014-15 budget, is referenced in the agreement, it is not attached as such and needs to be.

Business Manager Lisa Garcia said that, in addition to the motion passed at the Library District's last meeting stating the District will maintain the current hours and services at each library for this fiscal year, it's her belief that an official resolution is required. That resolution will allow the County to move forward with terminating its own agreements with the variety of groups which have been funding the additional hours.

It was discussed in what form (actuals vs budget) the board would like invoices presented to them, the amount of detail on the invoices, and the frequency of review of items on the invoices. The board discussed their concern about the lack of detail of what the County's budget does or does not cover in regards to the term "support services." Director Kiefer indicated she felt that the entire contract needed clarity and specificity.

Attorney Bartholomew indicated, after asking a few questions for clarification, that he felt he could carry our questions/concerns to the county and be ready to meet before the end of August.

President Turner asked Library Director Kim Wolfe about a future meeting date. Ms. Wolfe stated that she had been asked at the last meeting to work on scheduling dates for tours of library branches for the next few months (August, September, October, and November). One of the dates that all board members are available on is Monday, August 25, and a tour can be scheduled for that day.

President Turner indicated that she would like a special meeting held on August 25 to see one more draft of the agreement and to continue the IGA discussion. She would prefer not to act upon the resolution authorizing her to execute the IGA until the document is finalized.

Director Doty moved that agenda item two be continued to a future date when an agreement is ready to be signed. Director Swift seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

10:20 a.m. Board recessed for a ten minute break.

10:30 a.m. President Turner called meeting back to order.

3. A Resolution Authorizing Taxes Collected for the Jackson County Library District be Entrusted with the Jackson County Treasurer for Investment in Accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement Between Jackson County and Jackson County Library District for Library Facilities and Services

As this resolution is dependent upon the intergovernmental agreement being completed and, at this point, the district has no revenues, President Turner asked for a motion to postpone this resolution to a future date. Director Doty moved to postpone agenda item three to a future meeting. Vice President Monica Weyhe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Resolution Authorizing the District Board Chair to Sign a Notice of Designation of Special District Registered Office and Registered Agent

Business Manager Lisa Garcia distributed the "Notice of Designation" form to be filed with the State of Oregon. The completed notice will accompany the resolution to the Secretary of State. Director Susan Kiefer moved that the notice be signed by President Turner in which the official address of the Jackson County Library District be listed as 205 South Central Avenue, Medford and that Library Director Kim Wolfe be assigned as registered agent of the District. The motion was seconded by Vice President Weyhe. The motion passed unanimously.

President Turner directed that the order of items 6 and 5 on the agenda be switched. She also directed the addition of "Public Comment on items not on the agenda" to be added as the second order of business, just after the minutes, on future agendas.

6. Public Comment.
Tom Corrigan, City Manager, City of Talent.
Mr. Corrigan said that the City of Talent is second to none in appreciation of its library, "one of the epicenters of the community and a part of our civic

campus." The citizens of Talent are great advocates of the library, Mr. Corrigan continued, as evidenced by the last election's voting record and previously by their assuming a surcharge to pay for additional open hours at that library. The mayor has had numerous conversations with the citizens who have now made their feelings known in regards to the surcharge. Based on that and upon the minutes of the Library District's July 17 meeting, that current hours and services will be maintained during this fiscal year, Mr. Corrigan said the city council directed him to inform the District that they will be exercising the 90-day opt-out option in the IGA between the City of Talent and Jackson County. He also said that it is the wishes of the mayor and the council that the three months surcharge being college for July-September be paid directly to the Library District rather than to the County. The city council looks forward to an open and productive relationship with the District.

Joel Marks, 5678 Cherry Lane, Medford
Mr. Marks thanked President Turner for having moved up the public comments to earlier in the agenda. He said that there is some angst about this levy in the community and that he was not happy with it, personally and in regards to the Rogue Valley Transit District (RVTD) on whose board he sits.

Mr. Marks asked Chair Turner to explain about the reference in the July 17 minutes about a poll taken that found there was more support for the libraries at a 60-cent rate over a 40- or 50-cent rate. Susan Kiefer asked to respond. Director Kiefer formerly sat on the Library Advisory Committee during the time when County Commissioners authorized a poll asking whether citizens of the county would support a special library district. Five hundred registered voters were called and asked at what levels of support they would endorse a library district. Fifty-three percent supported a 60-cent level.

Mr. Marks disagreed with Business Manager Lisa Garcia's remarks last month about creating a budget, as well as Attorney Bartholomew's advice on allocating funds.

Mr. Marks said he voted against the current RVTD ballot measure (13 cents per \$1,000), and that one of the reasons he did so was because the Library District authorized the levy of 60 cents. He said he feels that it will now be very difficult for those who want public transportation to

get that, because they have this on their minds. He said the board had been "irresponsible to the senior citizens, those on fixed incomes, and those who are poverty stricken. You should have thought it through a little bit more."

Wright Kieran, 615 Tumbleweed Trail, Jacksonville
Mr. Kieran addressed the board saying, "I'm a library patron. I bet I use it more than 99 percent of people that live in this county. I'm also a voter. And I'm a tax payer." He said he had a "definite recollection" during the time leading up to the vote on the Special Library District levy "that a very clear representation was made, that although a 60-cent cap was going to be requested as the tax rate, that rate would not be implemented immediately." Director Kiefer, who served as a member of the campaign committee, said they were very careful not to say what would happen, as the rate would be set by the board, that had not yet been elected, not by anyone on the campaign.

Mr. Kieran went on to say that he remembers seeing it in writing, an assurance that the 60 cents was a cap and one perhaps that would be implemented over a long period of time. President Turner explained what had not been anticipated is the longer period of time (17 months) to pay back the county within this first year. She indicated it was the economic reality learned as the board took office. Mr. Kieran asked why that wasn't made explicitly clear to voters so they could have made an informed decision. If it wasn't known exactly how much was needed, the public should also have been given that information.

He went on to say, "I do observe that the County can fund the libraries at the current level for 42 cents." "That is misinformation that is out there," responded President Turner. She said that she would be willing to meet with Mr. Kieran to answer his concerns. This, however, was not an appropriate time to get into a debate or discussion, but to take input which could be addressed later.

Mr. Kieran stated, "I, and a great many other people in this county, feel that we have been made victims of a bait-and-switch scheme, and the editorial in the *Mail Tribune* said it all. You guys really did something that was arrogant, and I would submit bonehead, and I am really, really mad. And there are a lot of other people

like that, too." President Turner repeated her offer to meet with him to discuss his concerns.

5. New Business

a. Draft of Board Governance Policy. A draft prepared by Directors Kiefer and Weyhe was distributed. Director Kiefer cautioned that it was a work in progress. Suggestions and revisions by other board members should be directed to Director Kiefer. Once she has gathered all comments and has prepared a document that would be released to all members for their additional review, she will submit it to Ms. Garcia who could send it on to all board members.

Director Weyhe mentioned specifically the proposal in the first paragraph in the Policy draft that the District be called "Jackson County Public Library District." She gave her reasons to incorporate the word "public" to the name. She would like to get a domain name purchased and reserved in order to establish a Website among other things. President Turner asked, and Library Director Wolfe agreed, that this topic be discussed at a later date after staff has time to look at the issue.

b. Officer Names. Director Weyhe said that it is set in the ORS, in the statues, that the officers of a district board be called President, Vice President, and Secretary. These terms, rather than Chair and Vice-Chair, will be used in the future.

7. Library Director Report

Library Director Kim Wolfe briefly reviewed the highlights of her written report. In addition to this report, Director Wolfe asked the board if they wished to do a tour of libraries on Monday, August 25 followed by a special meeting. The board agreed that they would start at 10 a.m. visiting the Rogue River branch, then on to Gold Hill and White City, ending at Central Point where, after visiting the branch, they would hold a special meeting in the community meeting room at that branch starting at 3 p.m.

Items to be placed on the August 25 special meeting agenda:

- I. Continuation of discussion about item 2 (the IGA),
- II. Conversation about the domain name, and
- III. New Business

8. Board Member Round Table

Director Doty reported that she had toured six libraries (Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Talent, Gold Hill, and Central Point). She was impressed with the reception given to her as well as the welcoming interaction she saw between staff and volunteers and the public. She was told that LSSI has really promoted that as part of their involvement with the county public libraries. She was delighted to have attended a Wobblers program, a storytime puppet show, and a science program.

Director Swift noted a recent newspaper article about the State Education Director's comments on Oregon's two major educational objectives, one of which is to make sure everyone is reading up to grade level by grade three. She was very disappointed to note the lack of any mention of libraries as being a key player in how the community can get children ready to read and up to grade level by grade three. She feels libraries should be recognized as a critical part of achieving that goal and suggested board members keep it in mind when interacting with elected officials.

Vice President Weyhe offered to act as backup to proof board meeting minutes in addition to Directors Doty and Kiefer. She also would like to have September and October library tour dates finalized. Members will send dates they are available in September and October to Kim Wolfe.

Director Kiefer said that it has been mentioned a couple of times to her that the Board ought to create some sort of a guest editorial or an op-ed piece responding to the various editorial comments that have been published. Vice President Weyhe suggested that Director Kiefer draft such a piece and allow the board the opportunity to make comments or give input. President Turner said that the board would love to have her effort.

9. Adjourn

President Turner adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

The next meeting of the Library District will be a Special Meeting, Monday, August 25 at 3:00 p.m. in the community meeting room of the Central Point Branch Library, 116 South Third Street, Central Point, Oregon.