

**Whitman County Library**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
Whitman County Library, Colfax  
February 12, 2018

**Present:** Heather Lustig, Bob Bates, Kristie Kirkpatrick, Suzanne Schmick, Steve Balzarini, Andrea Miller, and Shirley Cornelius.

Chairwoman Andrea Miller called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. There were no additions or modifications to the agenda.

**New Business:**

February supporter of the month is Starr Cathey of Albion. Kristie will present her award this week.

In technology and grant related news, Nichole is working with Washington State University on a \$25,000 grant which would bring a summer tour of tech related activities to all WCL locations as part of summer reading. The library is also a finalist for a \$23,000 grant from Inland Northwest Community Foundation that would help fund staffing and equipment for tech related programming. A \$1,500 donation for children's tech programming followed a talk that Nichole gave at the Pullman Kiwanis group.

Kristie has been working with Catchafire, a service sponsored by Empire Health Foundation that matches experts in their field with non-profits to provide services for free. So far, their volunteer designed WCL's levy materials and we hope to secure volunteers to re-design the Friends/Foundation brochure and a library annual report.

**Continuing Business:**

Kristie has continued discussions with the Mayor of Colfax in regards to the Colfax contract with the library. The city is locked into the current contract for three years but the library is talking with the city about modifying the invoicing system.

The second part of the roof still needs to be finished but most of the work on the Center is nearly complete. On March 15, there will be a fundraising style show featuring clothing from Tick Klock Drugs and SportTown. Dinner will be served by Fonk's along with a no host bar. Proceeds from the night will go to help fund children's tech programming in the Center and countywide. Kristie asked Board members to RSVP if they want to attend. \$25 per person, \$40 per couple.

Levy election is on Tuesday, February 13. Hopefully we will know soon after the levy closes if the levy for the library has passed.

**Monthly Business:**

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved by a vote of the board.

Thirteen month and January financial reports including the monthly payroll and accounts payable vouchers of \$75,219.90 and the MasterCard transactions were presented. There was no additional discussion and Resolution #2018-4 was approved by a vote of the board.

The Board reviewed the statistical report for 2017. Kristie mentioned that program attendance for all age groups grew by about 15%. Adult attendance also grew by 15%, young adult attendance was up by 16% while kids attendance dropped by 4%. At 19,317 the children's statistics are still impressive. Compared with WCL's program attendance 10 years ago, we've seen an increase of 40%. That is a huge shift in staff time, focus and community needs.

Looking at our electronic measures, audio and eBook usage grew by 19% to 13,331 checkouts which more than makes up for the slight drop of 5500 traditional checkouts or 5%. Kristie noted that Garfield, LaCrosse, Oakesdale, Palouse and Tekoa all saw increases in traditional circulation. The remaining locations saw decreases with the largest percentage happening in Albion and Farmington. Because these locations have such limited shelf space, it isn't that surprising.

Looking at the database checkouts, WCL's Rural Heritage collection continues to be the most popular in the state with nearly 46,000 uses last year. ABC Mouse and Heritage Quest usage is also quite strong. The library has discontinued a number of databases and will be very selective should the levy pass allowing new products to be selected for 2019.

To illustrate how library services have changed, Kristie shared a report of traditional circulation over the past 10 years. The drop seems really large until your factor in the service shift to programming, digital checkouts and computer and Wi-Fi usage. It is important to note that computers were used 35,605 times in 2017 and WI-FI usage goes uncounted.

Finally, the Board reviewed the 2017 Branch Activity sheet which gives a window into how busy a branch library is during its open hours. Leading the field were Rosalia, LaCrosse and St. John. Colfax is not put into this comparison but you can look at the activity level to get an idea of how it compares

Changes are being made to the way the monthly stats are presented so we will catch up with January and February of 2018 at the next meeting.

Upcoming events are too many to easily list and it is best to go to the website at [www.whitco.lib.wa.us](http://www.whitco.lib.wa.us) to check out the numerous offerings in the next month.

### **Upcoming Board Meetings and trainings:**

Monday, March 19 at 4:00 PM

Thursday, April 12, 9-1 Spokane, Free Aspen Institute Workshop from Susan Hildreth

Monday, April 16 at 4:00 PM (maybe at a branch)

Friday, May 11 from 9-1 Board/Staff/Friends training session at Colfax library (no May meeting)

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM.

---

Shirley Cornelius, Secretary

---

Andrea Miller, Board Chair