

**FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT**  
**Board of Trustees Public Meeting**  
*March 18, 2019*

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Brian Carrico called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Three Creeks Community Library.

**ATTENDEES**

Board members: Brian Carrico, presiding, Bill Yee, Sandra Day, Jane Higgins, Portia Masterson, Kelly Smith

Administrative Team: Amelia Shelley, Executive Director; Lynne Caldwell, Collection & Technology Services Director; Tak Kendrick, Communications & Marketing Director; Christine Witte, Finance Director; Lee Strehlow, Human Resources Director; Justin Keeler, Outreach & Community Partnerships Director; Amy Lee, Public Services Director; Dave Josephson, Facilities Director; Barbara Jorgenson, Three Creeks Library Branch Manager, Recording: Sami Bretherton, Executive Assistant

2. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

Amelia Shelley shared a video to inspire all for the day entitled *How To Design A Library That Makes Kids Want To Read*, by Michael Bierut.

2.1 2019 Work Plan Review

- Shelley and the Administrative Team walked the Board through FVRL's 2019 Projects.

2.2 FVRL Vision Work

- The meeting attendees participated in a vision exercise where they were asked to share their expectations in the first, second and third year for the library.
- The group was then asked to share their answers to these questions:
  - I've been a library user for 25 years, what could be more important than ...
  - The thing that is great about our libraries is...
  - The thing that really makes our libraries stand out is...
- This exercise is one tool that will inform how the district will continue to further develop FVRL's Vision Statement.

2.3 Circulation

Jewell Foederer, Circulation Services Coordinator, gave a presentation regarding circulation issues including patron accounts, delinquencies, fine and fee collections.

2.4 Lean Update

Meadow Garrison, Technical Services Supervisor, shared how her team was able to significantly reduce the time a book arrives at FVRL for processing from several weeks to 3 days using the Lean system.

2.5 Survey Data/Always Novel

Janet Alder, Marketing Coordinator, shared data collected from a recent FVRL survey and the *Always Novel* campaign.

2.6 Demographics

Sam Wallin, Analyst/Project Coordinator, discussed the demographics of our library patrons, how these factors inform the types of programming we provide. Wallin also provided internal statistics looking at data from 2014-2018 on patron visits, content use, new cards issued and program information.

2.7 Core Services

Sam Wallin discussed the work currently being done to identify our desired outcomes for our core services. So far, Sam has created teams to work on early learning programs, customer service and spaces.

## 2.8 Shining Stars at FVRL

Sherry Braga, Volunteer Coordinator, presented the various ways volunteers contribute to FVRL.

## 2.9 Social Media

Tak Kendrick discussed FVRL's social media marketing and engagement strategy.

## 2.10 2018 Annual Fundraising Report

Rick Smithrud introduced Foundation board chair Becky Rude who gave an overview of FVRL Foundation's work and contributions on behalf of the library. Foundation board member, Paul Montague, shared the Foundation's financial report.

## 2.11 Finance – 5 Year Outlook Revenue/Expenses

Christine Witte presented FVRL's 5 year projected revenue and expense assumptions starting in 2019.

### 3. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Carrico moved the meeting into executive session at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the topic of real estate and personnel. Executive session ended at 3:45 p.m. with no action taken. The regular public meeting convened at 4:05 p.m.

Chair Carrico addressed the public stating that the Board of Trustees are appointed volunteers with the primary purpose of adopting a yearly budget and hiring the Executive Director. The Board of Trustees has no jurisdiction over library programming. Chair Carrico stated that public comment period would be limited to one hour since there were numerous requests to speak and requested that the audience keep comments to three minutes or less. Attendees who did not have an opportunity to speak were welcome to send written comments to the district.

### 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

*Yekaterina Nemykin/Clark County*

Opposed to Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH). LGB is morally wrong, traumatizes children and we have no right to decide for children. Asked the library for neutrality.

*GiGi Cartwright/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. The library's mission to embrace diversity has provoked sensibilities. DQSH is an extremely polarizing issue. FVRL is alienating a part of the community. It strikes at the heart of gender fluidity and smacks of indoctrination. Libraries provide a public service and she asked FVRL to be neutral on this issue.

*Lyubov Makarova/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. Kids are too young to understand what is going on. They see an adult do something and maybe they think they should do that. Worries about what kids are exposed to. 37% of youth have high suicide rates. If we start exposing them, they may want to become part of it. We are putting kids at risk.

*Tatyana Lukyanchenko/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. Says we should be promoting role models in the standards on which America was built. Let kids figure out life without being brainwashed. God doesn't make mistakes; why fill kids heads with uncertainty at a time when they should be doing childlike things? Stories should be read by people who understand children.

*Shirley Kluge/Woodland*

Supports DQSH. 98% of child molesters are heterosexual men. She understands that kids need to be safe. Patrons have a choice about bringing their kids to these programs.

*Nadezhda (Hope) Gorbunov/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. Believes this is about indoctrinating children. Teaching kids that this is normal and healthy is child abuse.

*Helen Shkurov/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. Doesn't want future kids to be doubting themselves. Kids can express themselves in other ways. Keep our kids safe. America is very narcissistic and there are a lot of problems with depression and narcissism.

*Kathy Winters/Ridgefield*

Introduced fundraising campaign for the new Ridgefield library with Priscilla the Pig. Priscilla will be displayed with a spare change donation jar.

*Nicolay Zaytiev/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. Likes to come to the library. The library should be a safe place for kids.

*Anastasia Roshehevskay/Battle Ground*

Opposed to DQSH. In Battle Ground schools, a five year old child suffered because of LBGTQ and left school with depression over the mandated sex education. Don't do this in the public library.

*Mark Zagumenny/Woodland*

Opposed to DQSH. Knowledge is important and libraries have a role in that. Concerned about the impact drag queens have on kids. Saw Clare Apparent videos and was disturbed. Images imprint on children and this is why we have rape and child molesters. Kids are confused and can't control their natural desires at times.

*Jessica Cole/Clark County*

Supports DQSH. Pedophilia is not synonymous with drag queens or LBGTQ. Safer for LBGTQ to dress up, similar to dressing up in costume for Halloween or Christmas. Events like this expand knowledge. Families become educated on the topic and it becomes safer for community and more inclusive. Families can choose what they attend. Attended Minidoka Band at Cascade Park Library and it was wonderful.

*Tatyana (Tanya) Matyunh/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. As a school teacher, we show age appropriate materials in school. Schools do not teach any identity standards or lessons until 4th grade. Wants library to replace the program with one that would be acceptable to all of our community.

*Ruvim Bulla/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. Long time library patron. Was taught honor, respect, to believe in God and seek to do what is right. Works with kids in kid's camps. It's the responsibility of every parent to teach their children what is right. They want good role models. DQSH brings confusion.

*Jen Ladan/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. Shared information on gender dysphoria and asks the library to not mess with kid's souls. DQSH gives kids ideas and fosters lack of security and psychological problems.

*Irina Dubinskiy/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. The library should not be a political place. This is discrimination of them and their children.

*Igor Nakonechnyy/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. Wants library to open kid's minds, not confuse them. We live in a world of contamination (i.e. water/air etc.). Library is no place for DQSH. Wait until children are older to let them make their own decision.

*Melanie Davis/Clark County*

Supports DQSH. Drag queens bring smiles and glitter. Other cultures are open to drag queens. Native Americans revered gender-fluid individuals. Doesn't see a danger. Drag queens do not create hate and are not bad people. Help children to accept; acceptance of others is important.

*Patricia Patterson/Clark County*

Supports DQSH. Has friends who are drag queens. Is saddened by the lack of exposure and ignorance. Ignorance is requesting denial of knowledge and "Let's Take It Back" mentality. Is angry that we are at this place. Let them be accepted. Censorship should not be allowed. Library is a beacon and should fight ignorance.

*Vitalina Khasaynovskiy/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. Storytime is to stimulate children to read. What is the message that DQSH brings? Storytime should be about children. Is the goal to bring attention to a love of reading? The library is not the platform to push social agenda on children.

*Mark Damian/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. Science books tells us there are two sexes – men and women. It's about the common sense that God gave us. We should not teach kids science that is not true. How far are we going to go? We love kids. Has gay friends. Will we pursue the world through facts of nature or our subjective views?

*Gary Wilson/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. This is not about hate. This is about indoctrinating three year olds. Library is not holding accountable to citizens. Has a petition of names. His neighbors are a lesbian couple. He had trouble getting to know one of them, but the other one is really great.

*Ivan Koroteev/Battle Ground*

Opposed to DQSH. People are lying to themselves. If you are a man and you dress as a woman, you are lying to kids and we want to teach kids to be truthful.

*Zhanna Agarkov/Brush Prairie*

Opposed to DQSH. DQSH was snuck in without public approval. The public library is funded by tax payer money. DQSH is not appropriate for young children. Library should provide safe child storytime. Concerned about the emotional damage to young minds.

*Aurel Davidyan/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. Kids don't need to know about sex at such an early age. It creates stress on the young brain. We wouldn't let kids drive, because we know kids aren't ready for that. Keep it out of library.

*Fred Alexander Serpevsky/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. Destruction in children's emotions. Can create depression for kids. It can cause confusion with who they are. The library pushes an agenda that creates an unstable community. In school kids have to listen to teachers and do what they say. Concern is to stop abusing children.

*Svetlana Polevoy/Clark County*

Opposed to DQSH. Speaking on behalf of many in her community. We are not against makeup and dressing up. Propaganda makes our community unstable. We can't change the DNA of the original code. We should help those who struggle with identity. If we teach our kids to be ruled by feelings first, then the next generation will be selfish and evil.

*Amelia Shelley read a written response regarding Drag Queen Story Hour:*

“Having the freedom to read and the freedom to choose is one of the best gifts my parents ever gave me.”  
— *Judy Blume*

“The Drag Queen Story Hour on February 9 was very well attended by families who chose to bring their children to meet Clare Apparent despite the chilly weather. The program consisted of three picture books and three songs including *If You're Happy and You Know It*. It was entirely age-appropriate for preschoolers and those in attendance had fun. Staff and parents were present throughout the program as is typical for our

preschool storytimes. The program featured a person dressed in drag reading stories to children and was not an adult drag show. The video widely circulated on the internet featuring Clare was not shown.

FVRL has always sought to serve everyone in our community. We do this through our collections, resources and programs. What is of interest to one person may be loathsome to another, but we respect and support each individual's right to their own beliefs. Further, we trust parents in making the choice as to whether a program is right for their family, just as we do with the books they check out or other programs they choose to attend at the library.

Not all families are alike - some have 2 moms, 2 dads, single parents, grandparents, foster parents, etc. All children deserve to see their lives reflected in library's materials and programs. The Drag Queen Story Hour was offered outside of our regular programming schedule and promoted as what it was; a drag queen story hour. No one could have attended under a mistaken premise of what was being offered. The program was well attended and many have asked when we will offer it again.

As to why FVRL would choose to participate in the national Drag Queen Story Hour program, we believe it is important for interested families to have the opportunity to meet people in their community that offer different perspectives on self-identity. We stand by our decision to promote and support diversity, equity and inclusion in our libraries.

The letters I have received reflect confusion over the definition of what it means to be a drag queen. We selected our performer because of their personal connection to Vancouver. We recognize that when a drag queen performs for adults, it is intended for adults. We do not believe that makes them incapable of reading to children in a setting that is appropriate for children."

Shelley thanked everyone for coming today and expressing their thoughts. Programs are typically planned up to three months out and DQSH is not currently scheduled. Chair Carrico said he appreciates Shelley's response. He noted that Vancouver Community Library generated this event.

## 5. REPORTS

### 5.1 Facilities: Dave Josephson

Dave Josephson described repairs and updates at the various facilities and specifically at Three Creeks, the new planter boxes for kids summer program to grow herbs and flowers. Couriers were working as usual even with over two feet of heavy snow in Goldendale, Stevenson, and White Salmon, making deliveries. Vancouver Community Library used a 57' lift to change out lights and do window cleaning. The facilities work plan was shared earlier in today's retreat.

### 5.2 Executive Director: Amelia Shelley

Reported that February and March were busy. Thank you to all Friends groups. Special thanks to Ridgefield Friends for the Sunday reception to honor and thank the RCCA for the donation of the building. Ridgefield participated in the First Saturday event with 200 questionnaires about wishes for new library. Cascade Park hosted Becoming American with the Minidoka Band. Credit and debit cards can now be used by staff to pay fines instead of a separate website. This is a convenience for patrons and due to an improvement to the connection to the ILS. Architect was chosen for Ridgefield Library. Woodland funeral home and future site of the Woodland library is now cleared and demo completed. Signage to publicize the future library in Woodland is up on the empty lot. PITS - Incident Reporting System was implemented.

### 5.3 Finance: Amelia Shelley

#### *December 2018*

Closeout for December 2018 was delayed due to Clark County's software upgrade which impacted FVRL's ability to write checks and close the books. Cash balance was \$16,682,383. Operational reserve was \$7,960,944. Balance was \$16,538,095. Total expenditures were 99% of budget at \$25,339,723.

Chair Carrico said that coming in under budget was being a good steward. Shelley explained that the dollar change is due to offering the HSA choice or decline of health benefits altogether, 4 managers retired, etc.

*January 2019*

For January 2019, cash balance was \$14,793,681. Surplus of books and materials reserve is \$433,587 and will be rolled over. Operational reserve is \$7,500,000 with a balance of \$16,682,383. Total Operating revenue was \$25,584,208 which is 61% of budget. Total expenses were \$2,043,502. 2019 total reserves were \$16,682,283.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

6.1 Minutes – February 20, 2019 Meeting

6.2 FVRL Expenditures: reviewed by Jane Higgins in the amount of \$1,757,411.24.

**MOTION:** Bill Yee moved and Sandra Day seconded approval of the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **BUSINESS**

7.1 Asset Management Policy

**MOTION:** Jane Higgins moved and Bill Yee seconded approval of the Asset Management Policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

7.2 Library Privileges Policy

**MOTION:** Jane Higgins moved and Sandra Day seconded approval of the Library Privileges Policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

7.3 Solicitation and Community Collections Policy

Chair Carrico asked if under the “Collection for Goods and Charities” if this provides enough for staff to be able to do their job? Is it first come, first serve? Should we provide more guidance to staff? Amy Lee said that FVRL will have a form to give to vendor so staff will have some information. Chair Carrico reconfirmed that we will provide guidance and not have arbitrary decisions made by staff. He wanted to make sure there is enough information for Branch Managers to make these decisions.

**MOTION:** Sandra Day moved and Bill Yee seconded approval of the Solicitation and Community Collections Policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

7.4 Social Media Policy (first reading)

The purpose of this policy is to help staff have a consistent approach. Role clarity is needed. Chair Carrico said it doesn't tell when it is or is not appropriate. Channels change rapidly- how do we maintain flexibility? Kendrick explained that we use the Rules of Conduct as a guideline.

7.5 Study Room Policy (first reading)

Study rooms are handled in various ways. This policy allows for more consistency between libraries.

7.6. Contract for Ridgefield Architect

Johanssen Architects were chosen for the Ridgefield Library project. Amelia Shelley asked the board for permission to let her proceed with negotiating a contract with them. Sandra Day asked if Shelley had checked with the City of Ridgefield on this architect? Shelley said she had not, but reference were good and included a former Battle Ground City permitting official. The board gave their consent and noted that if the contract exceeds \$350,000, then Shelley will bring it to the board in April.

8. **BRANCH REPORT**

Three Creeks Community Library: Barbara Jorgenson

Highlights include:

- Barbara has been at Three Creeks Community Library for 12 years.

- New additions to the library include: a courtyard with raised bed for a garden, a chessboard, hopscotch, ABC caterpillar, and new chairs in young adult area.
- Three Creek Friends host five book sales a year for the library.
- 700 programs and over 22,000 attendees in 2018
- Some programs highlighted are: Future of Code (Salmon Creek Coding Club), Robotics Club, and Read to the Dogs program

9. **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Carrico thanked the Three Creeks library staff and Friends for lunch and for hosting the meeting. Jane Higgins said that it was a meaty day and well worth the time. Amelia Shelley thanked Andy Parsons and Amy Scott for setting up the virtual reality equipment.


10. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next meeting is April 15, 2019 at Washougal Community Center, adjacent to the Washougal Community Library.

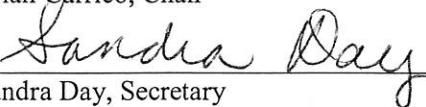
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

Approved:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Brian Carrico, Chair

4/15/2019  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

  
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 Sandra Day, Secretary