

FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Public Meeting

February 19, 2019

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

4:45-5:15 p.m. Executive Session

Topic: Real Estate: RCW 42.30.110 (1) (b) (c); Legal: RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i)

Chair Carrico called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the FVRL Operations Center.

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; Lee Strehlow, Human Resources Director; Justin Keeler, Outreach & Community Partnerships Director; Amy Lee, Public Services Director; Barbra Meisenheimer, Branch Manager, Vancouver Mall Library; Recording: Sami Bretherton, Executive Assistant

2. **AGENDA**

MOTION: Portia Masterson moved and Jane Higgins seconded approval of the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Carrico thanked the Friends of Vancouver Mall Library for providing the meal for the meeting.

4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Tevis Laspa/Ridgefield

Tevis Laspa gave an overview of Ridgefield Friends activities. Laspa said First Saturday event raised \$100. Ridgefield Community Center celebration to be held 3pm – 5pm Sunday at Ridgefield Community Center. Fabric sale is March 23. Kathy Winters and Lorna made a themed quilt and will sell raffle tickets with \$1500 as goal. The book sale is May 3& 4.

Piper McEwen/Camas, WA

Piper McEwen loves the library, but is not in favor of Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH). McEwen asks the Board to think carefully before offering another program like this.

Gary Wilson/Vancouver

Gary Wilson is opposed to DQSH event and asked the Board to protect our children or the voters will. Wilson referenced FVRL's Board meeting minutes from March 2018 Retreat and the levy lid lift. He said the library is a role model and that the event was inappropriate and that FVRL risks passing a levy lid lift.

Richard Rylander/Unincorporated

Richard Rylander is an avid library user, but not in favor of DQSH event. Rylander is concerned about damaging children and said the library is driving agendas. Rylander said the library became partner and enabler. He exchanged emails with the Executive Director but said no action was taken. Rylander asked for the dismissal of the Executive Director. Rylander provided his written comments to the Board.

Heidi St. John/Battle Ground

Heidi St. John loves the library, but is not in favor of DQSH event. St. John said that politics is not the place of the library.

Amy Wagner/Vancouver

Amy Wagner is in favor of DQSH event. Wagner attended the event and saw the joyful children's faces. Wagner is grateful for the event stating that as a psychologist she treats people with issues of acceptance and bullying and felt that DQSH was positive for many people.

Karly Crain/Vancouver

Karly Crain attended DQSH with her kids and is in favor of the event. Crain said she saw the event as an opportunity to celebrate individuality and then gave letters written by her children to the board about how much they liked the event.

Denny Anderson/Hockinson

Denny Anderson is opposed to DQSH and said the library has no business being involved in this. It has nothing to do with social engineering. Stated that he hates the sin, but loves the sinner. Anderson said he won't support the library.

Richard Lewis/Battle Ground

Richard Lewis is opposed to DQSH and said that the storytime reader is looked upon as an authority figure. Lewis said that the library is a public service and the authority should be neutral. He said that in this circumstance the focus was wrong.

Dawn Seaver/Vancouver

Dawn Seaver is opposed to DQSH and said it has no place in the public library. Seaver wrote to the Board and shared concerns with the Executive Director. She said she is concerned about how easily children can find inappropriate material on the internet related to the performer. Seaver quoted from the performer's website "Damn right I'm promoting gender fluidity." Seaver said there were many Oregon license plates in the parking lot and that Vancouver didn't want DQSH in its library. Children in dress-up in a gay bar documented as child abuse. Seaver said choosing your pronoun is a mistaken approach.

David Alt

David Alt is opposed to DQSH and asked the Board where representation is of the opposition's point of view. David Alt asked the Board to give equal time to bible story hour. Alt said 2-3% of LBG in the community makes them a minority and is deviant.

Sharon Murphy/Battle Ground

Sharon Murphy is opposed to DQSH and said it creates too much confusion for children and that we need to be there for our children. Murphy has grown children and feels that too much confusion is caused and the purity is gone.

Carol Brown/Hazel Dell

Carol Brown is opposed to DQSH and said that the library should be a safe place to take kids and that she wants good role models for our children. Brown is a photographer who attended the DQSH event and said she wasn't allowed to take pictures. Brown said we need to vet who is going to interact with our kids. If the community wants to do it, fine, but not at the library. Brown said she is networking with other parents and encourages the library not to get into politics. Brown is worried about confusion by children and the explicit videos by Clare Apparently.

Leon Goodman/Battle Ground

Leon Goodman is opposed to DQSH and said that the library is family oriented and a place of study to come and learn. Goodman said he believes in freedom of choice but is concerned with what drag queens promote when they are talking to vulnerable children. Goodman said America was founded on Christian, biblical values and added that it's a choice everyone needs to make. Goodman asked "Where do you draw the line on morality?" Openness and freedom is promoting sexual topics. Return to Biblical principles. Morality is gone.

Lisa Schmidt

Lisa Schmidt is opposed to DQSH. Schmidt shared book titles such as *Two Trails* and *The Treasure Tree*. Schmidt said these books show how kids handle things differently and that this is where we need to meet the kids. It's not about sexuality. Lisa Schmidt would like to set up a storytime. She was directed to get in touch with the Executive Director.

Jennifer (no last name provided)/Yacolt

Jennifer is opposed to DQSH and said there is no evidence that someone is born transgendered. She said that schools teach kids that gender is how you feel. Jennifer said when a man puts on a dress, kids may believe that the man is a woman. Jennifer mentioned some of the medical procedures and medical risks facing those that undergo gender transition. Jennifer said transgenderism is being taught in the public schools--trying to normalize concepts and that drag queens are adult entertainers. Jennifer said that as a woman, drag queens offend her.

Matt (no last name provided)

Matt is opposed to DQSH and said that the majority of Vancouver residents are not in favor of this. Matt said that it is obvious to residents that the library has an agenda. He said that our society and culture are oversexualized and we need to be mindful of protecting children. Matt said that the majority of Vancouver is not in favor of DQ and to give religious groups equal time.

Tom Haggan/Vancouver

Tom Haggan is opposed to DQSH and said that this is not about freedom of speech and not about tolerance, but it's about pushing an agenda. Haggan said the library is not a safe place anymore. He asked the library to make a stand against pushing a political agenda. Haggan said sensitivity goes both ways and that we need to be sensitive to people who are not comfortable with this. Haggan said that libraries should be about information, not agendas. Options are given in our society. DQ is a political agenda.

Mark Rivera

Mark Rivera is opposed to DQSH. Rivera said he takes his kids to the library. He wonders why Friends of the library and public employees are devoting time to this program.

Board Comments

Chair Carrico said that the Board hires the Executive Director but is not involved with programs. Shelley said that there is a lot of learning from this event and that we are still debriefing. Shelley said that this has been hard on the library staff. Some staff shared with her that they felt uncomfortable with the decision. Shelley said that as a librarian, she believes that libraries are about intellectual freedom and wants employees to feel comfortable expressing opinions.

Shelley said that staff distributed evaluations at the end of the DQ Story Hour event, with a simple smile or frown to circle. Of the 52 surveys collected, there were 51 smiles and one frown. Shelley said that data collected from FVRL's Facebook page was similar. Of the 356 "reactions" to the Drag Queen Story Hour program, there were 130 likes, 177 loves, 8 sad and 38 angry icons, for a balance of 87% positive reactions. She said comments to social media were more mixed with 114 comments of which 41% were positive, 50% negative and 9% neutral. Phone calls and direct emails to either her email address or to the Trustees were 90% negative, 10% positive.

Bill Yee asked Shelley if she had any suggestions for placating concerned patrons since you can't undo what you already have done. Shelley said that FVRL chose to go forward with this because we felt there was support for it and that the large crowd at the event was indicative of community support. Shelley said that FVRL doesn't want there to be resentment, but said she has no regrets. Shelley said that FVRL follows the American Library Association's Bill of Rights which asks libraries to represent all sides and it can be hard to navigate what that means.

Chair Carrico said that he appreciates the patron comments and that the Board is glad that the Executive Director personally responded to patron concerns either verbally or in email.

5. **REPORTS**

5.1 Facilities Report: Dave Josephson

Dave Josephson gave a brief update on projects in process including the Woodland funeral home demolition and selection of architects for the new Ridgefield library is underway. Portia Masterson said that a bank of lights was out at VA library. Josephson was aware of the issue.

5.2 Executive Director Organizational Update: Amelia Shelley

Amelia Shelley said that there are no financials this month due to year end closing and that we expected to have December numbers in February and January numbers in March.

Highlights of activities include:

- March 26 event with author, Cory Doctorow at Clark College. He is the author of *Little Brother*, and *Information Doesn't Want To Be Free*, which covers issues in the digital realm.
- The county software migration is in process until March 5th.
- Recently the admin team held a retreat focused on project management. Outcomes were established for our projects and timelines for completion were developed.
- Executive Director Amelia Shelley and Human Resources Director Lee Strehlow attended the Equity in the Workplace Pre-conference hosted by the Seattle Public Library as part of the American Library Association Mid-Winter Conference in Seattle.
- The Executive Director attended the Washington Public Library Annual Director's meeting where Amy Lee, Sam Wallin, and Jennifer Huaun gave a presentation on their 2018 visit to Xiamen, China.
- Legislative Day was held February 6 in Olympia where Shelley met with several legislators to promote our libraries.
- A temporary location for the Ridgefield Library was secured.
- The Woodland Traffic Study will be discussed at March retreat. The state is still working on their findings. The Woodland fund raiser raised over \$20,0000.
- A Washougal Library location is in the works and LaCenter reopened after a refresh.
- Shelley discussed the e-book demand that FVRL is experiencing with Michele Obama's popular book *Becoming* as an example.
- FVRL bookmobiles had 1,616 visitors in three weeks of service in January, including 600 children, 99 of those came from Lyle.
- Outreach Program highlights included STEM/Robotics program in partnership with Columbia Gorge Elementary School in Washougal. The Connect Card program has had success in Ridgefield and Evergreen School Districts. The Experience Pass Program launched.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

6.1 Minutes – January 22, 2019 meeting

6.2 FVRL Expenditures: reviewed by Portia Masterson

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

7. **BUSINESS**

7.1 Library Privileges Policy – Second Reading

Suggested changes:

- Limited Card (clarifies limited card criteria for adults and minors)
- Educator Card:
 - Proof of employment at a pre-K-12 institution in our service area
 - Declaration of intent to homeschool
 - Intended for educational use only
 - Personal use could result in loss of privileges
 - Expires annually
- Four types of cards: Everything Card, E card, Limited card, Reciprocal card

7.2 Asset Management Policy – Second Reading

Suggested changes:

- Creates a lower limit of \$300 for small and attractive assets
- Defines them as cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc.
- Adds risk assessment for loss
- Stipulates need for protection of small assets
- Identifies need for reporting plan and compliance

7.3 Solicitation on Library Property Policy– Second Reading

Suggested changes:

- Collection of goods for charities:
 - Allows for community partners to collect at library locations
 - Examples: coats, canned goods, pajamas, books, blood donations, etc.
 - Ability to decline on a space available basis
 - No collection of cash (Friends and Foundation excepted)
 - May require that collection points be staffed
- Solicitation:
 - Prohibits all types of solicitation, promotion, vending, peddling or product sampling on library property
 - Exception for Friends, Foundation, District partnerships

8. **BRANCH REPORT - Barbra Meisenheimer, Branch Manager, Vancouver Mall Library**

Barbra Meisenheimer shared slides on a Dino project their library provides. The Vancouver Mall Library joined the float in January and now our libraries are consistent throughout the district.

9. **BOARD COMMENTS**

Jane Higgins said that she attended the Woodland event and it was great. Chair Carrico thanked the attendees for their presence and their comments.

10. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next meeting is March 18, 2019 at Three Creeks Community Library.
9:00am Board Retreat start time; 4:00pm Board Meeting start time.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Approved:



Brian Carrico, Chairman

3/18/2019

Date



Sandra Day, Secretary