



AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: Monday, March 21, 2022 at 6:00pm

LOCATION: HYBRID: Zoom Meeting / Vancouver Community Library; 901 C Street; Columbia Room

Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691425456>

Meeting ID: 846 9142 5456; Passcode: 784728

or

Dial +1 206 337 9723 US

6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order
2. Agenda Approval ACTION
3. Chair Announcements INFORMATION
4. Reports: INFORMATION
 - 4.1 FVRL Operational Report: Mary Abler, Deputy Director
 - 4.2 Branch Report: Three Creeks Community Library: Barbara Jorgenson, Branch Manager
 - 4.3 FVRL Foundation Update: Rick Smithrud, Executive Director
 - 4.4 Communications and Marketing Division: Tak Kendrick, Director
5. Consent Agenda ACTION
 - 5.1 Minutes Approval: February 22, 2022 meeting
 - 5.2 FVRL Expenditure Approval: Reviewed by Kate Maple
 - 5.3 Equal Opportunity Employment Policy
6. Business
 - 6.1 Facilities Committee INFORMATION
 - a. Brush Prairie
 - b. Woodland
 - c. Washougal
 - d. VITA School / Operations Center / Grand Blvd
 - 6.2 Policy Committee INFORMATION
 - 6.3 Finance Committee INFORMATION
 - a. Port of Vancouver Tax Increment Financing Area
 - b. Three Creeks Capital Facility Area Audit
 - 6.4 Board Business INFORMATION
 - a. Meeting Schedule Change: Retreat Saturday, May 21, 2022 (9 am – 5 pm)
 - b. Committee Assignments and Bill Review Schedule
7. Public Comments
8. Board Comments
9. Setting of next regular meeting – Monday, April 18, 2022 (Hybrid/Location TBD)
10. Adjournment



March 2022 - ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

1. COVID-19 Service & Staffing Response

- Mask mandate ended March 11, 2022
- All locations open a minimum of 10 am to 6 pm Monday - Friday
 - No meeting room use, no in-person programs

2. Capital Projects

- Operations Center (Mill Plain)
 - Final install furniture, all staff returned by mid-March
- Woodland Community Library
 - Program reduction and site planning
 - City of Woodland site walk
 - Hacker contract discussion
- Washougal Community Library
 - Library Advisory Committee meeting with Hacker
 - Staff building committee meetings
 - Two public presentations with Hacker
- Grand Boulevard building
 - COV - backflow valve construction
 - Finalized floor plan

3. Executive Director's Activities: February 23 - March 20, 2022

- Public Libraries of Washington Director's Retreat (virtual)
- OC furniture installation and punch, staff move
- Women Who Mean Business Conference (Vancouver Chamber)
- Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation Board
- Johnston Architecture - Operations Center floor plan review
- Policy and Finance Committees
- VA Early Learning Center stakeholders meetings
- VITA tour
- Washington State Archives site visit
- Respond to Goldendale Sentinel questions
- American Library Association Congressional Meetings (virtual)
- Began on-boarding three new Trustees
- Engineering Services Request for Qualifications
- I-Net Comcast discussion with City of Vancouver
- LTIF communication with Mike Bomar, Port of Vancouver
- Working with interim Finance management team
- Three Creeks Capital Facility Area audit
- Erate submission review and approval

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
 Statement Of Revenue - Calendar Year 2022
 For the Month Ending February 2022 (With year-to-date totals)

	2022 Budget (Approved 12/21)	February 2022 Revenues	All Revenue Received thru February 2022	Year - to - Date Annual Budget Percent
Property Taxes				
311.10 Property Taxes - Clark	24,250,000	141,170	194,851	0.80%
311.10 Property Taxes - Skamania	675,000	2,228	10,694	1.58%
311.10 Property Taxes - Klickitat	1,345,500	0	9,612	0.71%
311.10 Property Taxes - Cowlitz	325,000	333	2,460	0.76%
Total Property Taxes	26,595,500	143,731	217,617	0.82%
Other Taxes				
311.11 Other General Tax	0	0	21,187	0.00%
318.20 Leasehold Excise Tax	120,000	23,158	34,654	28.88%
Total Other Taxes	120,000	23,158	55,841	46.53%
Intergovernmental, Grants & Contracts				
332.00 Federal in-lieu of Taxes	5,000	0	482	9.64%
333.00 Grants through ESD 112	0	0	0	0.00%
336.02 State In-lieu of Taxes	0	0	0	0.00%
334.84 State Grants	0	0	0	0.00%
335.05 State Forest Boards	225,000	1	6,097	2.71%
338.72 Yale Valley Library Dist	162,500	0	0	0.00%
338.72 INET City of Vancouver (PEG)	61,000	0	0	0.00%
338.72 Contracts - Clark County Jail	500	0	0	0.00%
Total Intergovernmental, Grants & Contracts	454,000	1	6,579	1.45%
Charges for Services				
341.60 Equipment Use Fees	20,000	2,246	3,963	19.81%
347.21 Non-Resident Borrower Fee	6,000	824	1,682	28.03%
347.90 Lost / Damaged Material Fee	25,000	2,564	6,485	25.94%
347.50 Collection Agency Referral Fee	5,000	330	570	11.40%
Total Charges for Services	56,000	5,964	12,700	22.68%
Miscellaneous				
361.11 Investment Interest	120,000	7,950	16,823	14.02%
362.00 Rental Income	2,500	0	10,954	0.00%
367.09 Restricted Contribution - WS	0	0	200	0.00%
367.10 Gifts/Contributions	15,000	60	122	0.81%
369.90 Library Friends Groups' Reimbursements	150,000	0	1,064	0.71%
369.90 Library Foundation Reimbursements	1,000,000	0	0	0.00%
369.40 Insurance Reimbursements	250,000	0	0	0.00%
369.90 Miscellaneous	2,500	61	152	6.08%
367.11 Private Grants	150,000	0	0	0.00%
369.90 Postage Contributions	0	0	0	0.00%
369.90 Other Miscellaneous - E-Rate	200,000	0	0	0.00%
395.00 Sale of Assets	20,000	40	149	0.75%
Total Miscellaneous	1,910,000	8,110	29,464	1.54%
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 29,135,500	\$ 180,964	\$ 322,201	1.11%
Transfer in from Reserves	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.00%
Total Revenues and Transfer from Reserve	\$ 31,535,500	\$ 180,964	\$ 322,201	1.02%

2/12 months = 16.67%

Jan.-Dec. 2022 Fiscal Year

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
Statement of Expenses - Calendar Year 2022
For the Month Ending February 2022 (With year-to-date totals)

<u>Bars</u>	<u>Description</u>	2022 Budget (Approved 12/21)	February 2022 Expenditures	Year-to-Date Totals thru February 2022	Year to Date Annual Budget Percentage
Personnel					
572.10	Wages	12,000,000	933,961	1,879,195	15.66%
572.24	Benefit - Medical	2,560,000	181,463	285,080	11.14%
572.24	Benefit - Dental	300,000	22,389	45,259	15.09%
572.24	Benefit - Life, LTD, STD	125,000	10,752	21,527	17.22%
572.22	Benefit - PERS	1,540,000	94,232	189,779	12.32%
572.21	Benefit - FICA	910,000	69,933	140,707	15.46%
572.25	Benefit - L & I - Workers Compensation	100,000	6,487	11,885	11.89%
572.25	Benefit - PFML	20,000	1,501	3,020	15.10%
572.28	Unemployment Expense	10,000	-1,325	-1,325	-13.25%
	Personnel Subtotal:	17,565,000	1,319,393	2,575,127	14.66%
Supplies					
572.30	Supplies	392,525	35,763	54,999	14.01%
572.35	Small Equipment (FF&E)	266,700	5,357	6,650	2.49%
572.38	Technology	433,000	17,370	17,370	4.01%
572.33	Professional Collection / Tech	350,000	26,237	33,660	9.62%
	Supplies & Small Equipmt/Tech Subtotal:	1,442,225	84,727	112,679	7.81%
Library Books / Materials					
572.34	Library Books & Materials	2,300,000	76,347	122,400	5.32%
572.39	Electronic Resources	1,600,000	94,606	167,465	10.47%
	Library Materials Subtotal:	3,900,000	170,953	289,865	7.43%
Other Services / Charges					
572.41	Professional Services	1,725,000	146,827	222,981	12.93%
572.42	Communications	387,800	40,478	74,782	19.28%
572.43	Training / Travel	108,000	4,786	8,790	8.14%
572.44	Advertising	30,000	49	84	0.28%
572.45	Rentals / Leases	567,925	77,727	157,916	27.81%
572.46	Insurance	220,000	1,645	1,645	0.75%
572.47	Utilities	458,855	32,746	67,952	14.81%
572.48	Repairs & Maintenance	704,250	55,763	72,167	10.25%
572.49	Misc / Dues / Printing / Other	165,700	13,783	20,931	12.63%
572.50	Intergovernmental Services	3,640	349	594	16.32%
	Other Charges & Services Subtotal:	4,371,170	374,153	627,842	14.36%
Capital Outlay					
594.62	Buildings / Non-Owned	500,000	164,118	170,799	34.16%
594.62	Buildings / Owned	3,392,105	29,975	127,570	3.76%
595.62	Yale Project	40,000	1,061	1,061	2.65%
594.64	Machinery & Equipment	325,000	64	64	0.02%
	Capital Outlay Subtotal:	4,257,105	195,218	299,494	7.04%
Reserved Amount					
572.41	Professional Services-2022 Projects	0	0	0	0.00%
		0	0	0	0.00%
Total Operating Expenditures:		\$ 31,535,500	\$ 2,144,444	\$ 3,905,007	12.38%
Total Reserved Projects		0	0	0	0.00%
Grand Total All Expenditures:		\$ 31,535,500	\$ 2,144,444	\$ 3,905,007	12.38%

February is the 2nd month of the fiscal year. Year-to-date budget percentages should be at 16.67%, representing 2/12 months.



March 2022 – Strategic Plan Update

FVRLibraries is committed to providing regular updates about our [2021-2024 Strategic Plan](#).

EQUITY

- Youth services staff have added the anti-bias education framework to the district storytime training, which will be used to train new staff moving forward.

CONNECTIONS

- Internet access is now available to patrons in our rural communities through our bookmobiles.

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

- Each location and division has completed updated benchmark surveys. Data will be compiled to identify our progress towards our outcomes and priorities.

MARCH BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

March 21, 2022

EQUITY

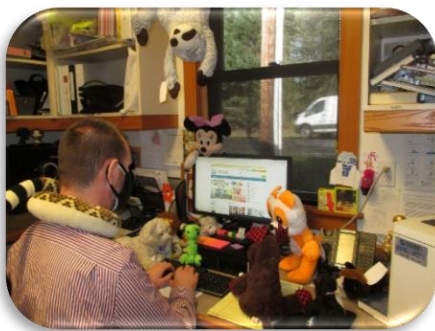
- Vancouver Library Public Services Librarian, Diane Clark, attended the 3-day virtual Northwest Regional Equity Conference hosted by Clark College as well as the closing teach-in of the Southwest Washington Equity Coalition's AREDI webinar series.
- Branches in Clark County coordinated with Council for the Homeless to participate in the 2022 Point in Time Count.
- White Salmon Valley Library Branch Manager, Ruth Shafer and Hood River County Library Director, Rachael Fox, continue to work together with the new Mid-Columbia Coalition to help with their documents. This is a five counties/two states coalition working together across the region to help end homelessness.

CONNECTIONS

- Ridgefield Library Manager, Sean McGill, reported that a Woodland patron is taking an online class from a master harpist in Ireland. He needed fast and strong wi-fi so he's been coming to the Ridgefield Library to use the study room for this purpose every Monday.

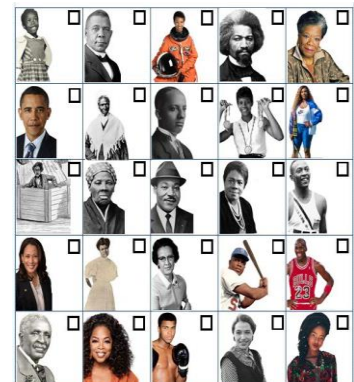


- With the help of Christina Cain, Graphic Designer at CMD, we found old pictures of Stevenson Community Library when it was on Russell Ave pre-1967 for the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center. Pictured (Left) is librarian Grace Jones, who retired before the library moved to its current building in 1967.



- Thanks to the hard work of Senior Library Assistants, Susan & Teri, they kept up La Center Library's stellar reputation and did an exceptional job creating the annual [Stuffed Animal Sleepover](#) this year. The patrons, young and old, absolutely loved it! (Left) Senior Branch Supervisor, Evan Brengle, multitasked work with looking after the stuffed animal critters!

- Three Creeks Library had a Black History Month Scavenger Hunt (Picture on Right) for two weeks where patrons could search for posters celebrating African American heroes and get a prize. Staff paired this with a special kid-focused book display with more information about these leaders.



PARTNERSHIPS



- (Left) Cascade Park Library partnered with SHARE to be a collection site for the month of February to collect feminine hygiene products.
- Battle Ground Library Manager, Holland Christie, recently submitted and was awarded a grant by the TODAY Foundation. The money will be used on a new shelving unit for the children's area and acrylic holders to promote library materials, specifically new picture books and parenting books. We appreciate the gift by the TODAY Foundation.

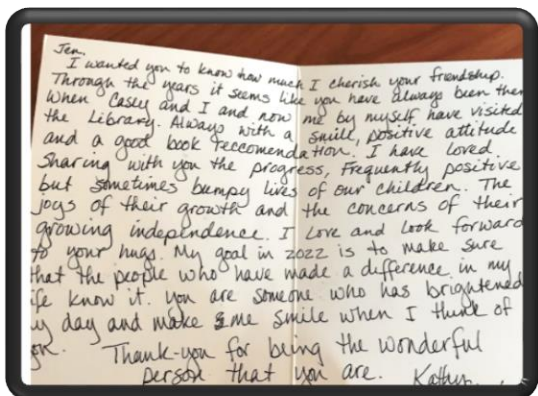
- Vancouver Library librarians, Maggie N. and Diane C. worked with the Family Community Resource Center Coordinator at Jason Lee Middle School to develop a family 'library' in their resource center using Read, Return, Repeat books

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

- Tel Info answered 2,763 calls in February with an average time to answer of 14 seconds. On average Tuesday was the busiest day and Sunday was the quietest day on phones. The number reflected a short month plus a holiday.
- In partnership with Woodland School District, our facilities department completed the pathway from the Yale School gate to the Yale Valley Library parking lot. This will allow the students to start utilizing the library during their school day. (Right)



PATRON COMMENTS



- (Left) Battle Ground Library Senior Library Assistant, Genevieve, received a beautiful note from a long-time patron; it made their day!
- A patron came into the Goldendale Library to get a library card for his daughter saying that was what she asked for her birthday! Another patron told the staff that she loved that the library has such a diverse collection and thanked them for making sure there was a little of everything.
- Three Creeks Library received the following written comment from a patron, "Everyone here is wonderful and helpful" which was much appreciated by the staff!

Foundation Update

Beaches cashback fundraiser to benefit FVRL Foundation!

March 31, 11:00am–9:00pm

Tell your server you're dining to support **FVRL Foundation** and 50% of your check will be donated back to us. Happy hour and takeout are included, too!

BEACHES
RESTAURANT 🌍 EVENTS 🌍 COMMUNITY

Call for a Reservation:
360-699-1592
1919 SE Columbia River Drive
beachesrestaurantandbar.com



Great News!

- The Foundation received an unrestricted distribution of \$30,339 from a charitable foundation
- Safeway has agreed to be a \$5,000 sponsor of the Love Your Library event in Woodland
- Sales of used books through ThriftBooks, our internet sales partner, earned the Foundation \$3,769.98 for the month of February
- The Foundation was honored to receive a \$1,000 gift in memory of a long-time patron
- The Foundation received an unrestricted \$1,000 disbursement from a donor-advised fund

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 21

[FVRL Trustee Meeting](#)

Hybrid at Vancouver Library and via Zoom, 6:00pm–8:00pm

Thursday, March 24

FVRL Foundation Board Meeting

via Zoom, 3:00pm–4:00pm

Thursday, March 31

Beaches Cash Back Day

1919 SE Columbia River Dr
11:00am–9:00pm

Saturday, April 2

[Friends of Ridgefield Library](#)

[Mystery Book Sale](#)

Ridgefield Library, 10:00am–3:00pm

Wednesday, April 6

Library Giving Day

Monday, April 18

[FVRL Trustee Meeting](#)

Location TBC, 6:00pm–8:00pm

Saturday, April 23

[Love Your Library](#)

Peterson's Red Barn,
1605 Caples Road, Woodland,
5:00pm–9:00pm

Thursday, April 28

FVRL Foundation Board Meeting

via Zoom (TBC), 3:00pm–4:00pm

Building Campaigns and Cornerstone Pledges

Washougal has 33 Cornerstones, 2 Stepping Stones, and 1 Keystone.

Woodland has 29 Cornerstones, 4 Stepping Stones, 4 Keystones, and 4 Capstones.

**Please note: some Cornerstones have graduated to Stepping Stones, which is why some Cornerstone totals have decreased.*

How Board Members Can Help

–Spread the word about the Fred Meyer Rewards program:

<https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4>

–Sign up to support FVRL Foundation through Amazon Smile:

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

Help Support FVRL Foundation on Library Giving Day!

Library Giving Day

April 6, 2022

Library Giving Day is a one-day fundraising event with the goal of encouraging people who depend on and enjoy public libraries to donate to their individual library system.

And in turn, that support will go toward the incredible programs, services and materials provided by FVRLibraries.

Visit www.fvrlfoundation.org to make a gift.



Get your tickets for Love Your Library, a fundraiser to benefit the Woodland Library Building Fund!



Saturday, April 23 from 5:00pm–9:00pm at the Peterson's Red Barn, 1605 Caples Road in Woodland. There will be music, appetizers and desserts, an auction, and an update from the project architects.

Buy your tickets at loveyourlibrary.eventbrite.com

**FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Public Meeting**

February 22, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 6:00pm. A roll call was held.

ATTENDEES: All participation was virtual per Governor's proclamation #20-25.2.

Board Members: Jane Higgins, Kate Maple, Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, Penny Love-Henslee, Kelsi Gilkey

Excused: Brian Carrico

Administrative Team: Amelia Shelley, Executive Director; Mary Abler, Deputy Director, Lynne Caldwell, Collection & Technology Services Director; Justin Keeler, Outreach & Community Partnerships Director; Dave Josephson, Facilities Director; Lee Strehlow, Human Resources Director; *Special Guests:* Brandon Cruz, Linda Landi, Brenda Cameron, Sam Wallin; *Recording:* Sami Bretherton, Executive Assistant

2. AGENDA

Chair Higgins noted that an Executive Session was held at 5:30pm on the topic of Personnel and no action was taken.

MOTION: Mary Ann Duncan-Cole moved and Kelsi Gilkey seconded approval of the agenda. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.

3. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Higgins introduced Kristy Morgan who was in attendance for tonight's meeting. Morgan is a newly appointed trustee going through the approval process and is expected to be in place for the March meeting. FVRL has two additional trustees from the City of Vancouver that have just been selected and should be in place by the April Board meeting.

4. REPORTS

4.1 FVRL Operational Report: Mary Abler, Deputy Director

FVRL is adding hours back today to several of our branches; Battle Ground and Vancouver will go back to normal hours on April 1. CRESA to provide masks to the public throughout our district. All staff have completed equity training and now the training will be part of our new employee orientation training requirement. The strategic planning team also added a page to our intranet so that staff can track the progress of the plan.

4.2 Branch Report: Vancouver Mall Community Library, Brandon Cruz, Branch Manager
Cruz provided an overview of Vancouver Mall Library's activities over the past year.

4.3 Collections and Technology Services

Linda Landi reported statistics on eResource usage 2019 – 2021. We are almost back to our pre-pandemic numbers for eResources; Brenda Cameron went over patron use statistics and online user registration information.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Minutes Approval – January 18, 2022 meeting

5.2 FVRL Expenditure Approval: Reviewed by Jane Higgins

5.3 2021 Public Works Contracts

MOTION: Kelsi Gilkey and Penny Love-Henslee seconded approval of the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Finance Committee

- Brush Prairie – Demographic Update – Sam Wallin

The Brush Prairie area was identified as an area that needs a library in the 2012 Facilities strategic plan. In 2018, FVRL purchased a piece of property in Brush Prairie. Wallin shared some demographic data and a model for service in a commercial space.

- 2022 Budget Report

Shelley gave an overview of the FVRL annual report.

6.2 Resolution 2022-04: 2022 Capital Reserve Plan

Staff seeks Board approval on the reallocation of undesignated capital reserve funds, which allows FVRL to reallocate \$3.5 million to other projects while providing \$2.3 million in undesignated capital reserves for the remodel of the new operations center.

MOTION: Kate Maple moved and Penny Love-Henslee seconded approval of Resolution 2022-04. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.

6.3 Policy Committee

- Equal Opportunity Employment Policy – 2nd Reading
- Additional Rules of Conduct Policy Amendment

MOTION: Kelsi Gilkey moved and Kate Maple seconded approval of the Additional Rules of Conduct Policy Amendment to take effect when the Governor's mask mandate is rescinded.

6.4 Facilities Committee

- Staff Report: Property Leases

6.5 Resolution 2022-5: Washougal Community Library Lease

The City of Washougal requested an update to the existing 2004 agreement. There is no fee for the use of the space. FVRL is responsible for all overhead costs of operating the library in this location. The amended lease is intended to address use of spaces outside of the leased area for various functions including book returns, curbside services, events and programs and use of restroom and parking facilities by patrons and staff.

MOTION: Mary Ann Duncan-Cole moved and Penny Love-Henslee seconded approval of Resolution 2022-05. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.

6.6 Resolution 2022-6: Sea Mar Amended Grand Boulevard Lease

FVRL adopted the existing lease between the City of Vancouver and Sea Mar that ends on February 28, 2022. Staff are seeking to amend the lease to end June 30, 2022 to allow Sea Mar adequate time to finish their construction project and move into their new building.

MOTION: Kate Maple moved and Mary Ann Duncan-Cole seconded approval of Resolution 2022-06. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Written comments were received from: Judy June, Jason Askim, Ian McIlvena, Henry Harbert, Kay Hinson, Dennis Anderson, Christine Neal, Jacqueline Myers, Virginia Griffiths, Ron & Debbie Moon, Kristin Mangino, Trudie Damaskov, David Funk, Ann Makar, Terri Preston, Diana Knous, Molly Karlsen, Terry Busch, Pamela Busch, Marilyn Roggenkamp, Quill Onstead, Dawn Appleberg, Devin Bowen, cjjonessdd, Max Booth, David Wright, Catherine Williams, Ken Dailey, Jason Fitch, Gary Wilson, Janice Joner, Joylyn Bowen, Troy L. Win'E Sr., Pastor Jim Bordwine, Max Booth, Dan Joner, Ginny Seymour, Suzanne Carlson, Jesse Zalk, Pat Shorthill

BOARD COMMENTS

Chair Higgins acknowledged Amy Lee, who is retiring after 40 years of service with FVRL. Higgins noted that Lee's service commitment has been beyond words and expressed her appreciation. On behalf of FVRL's Board of Trustees, Higgins wished Amy Lee every happiness in her retirement. Higgins also noted that this is Kelsi Gilkey's final Board meeting as a Trustree. Higgins thanked Gilkey for being flexible and supportive during the transition. In turn, Gilkey thanked the Board and Amelia Shelley and the FVRL staff. She also thanked Kristy Morgan for joining and volunteering her time. Gilkey was impressed with FVRL's DEI initiative and the quality of training and believes the foundation we are building will drive a better community. Kate Maple also applauded the equity training and particularly wanted the "What Makes Up Your Culture" worksheet to be shared with all Trustees. Maple is also excited about the capital projects and wants Brush Prairie to move forward.

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next meeting is Monday, March 21, 2022 (Hybrid)

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:59pm

Approved:

Jane Higgins, Chair

Date

Kate Maple, Secretary

Date

FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

Approval of Claims

As of

February 28, 2022

As required by RCW 42.24.080 and RCW 42.24.090, vouchers audited and certified by the Auditing Officer of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District and those expense reimbursement claims which have been certified as required, have been recorded on a list and made available to the Board of Directors for approval.

As of this date, March 21, 2022, The Board of Directors, by a _____
 vote does approve for payment the following vouchers, warrants, voids, and electronic transfers issued
February 1, 2022 through February 28, 2022

Accounts Payable Warrants Issued	Numbers	<u>114354</u>	Through	<u>114565</u>	<u>\$ 1,473,551.79</u>
Accounts Payable EFT Payments		<u>EFT20220201-10</u>	Through	<u>EFT20220218-4</u>	<u>71,750.84</u>
Accounts Payable Warrants Voided	Numbers	<u>113874,114498,114499,114563</u>			<u>(\$ 1,415.52)</u>
Payroll Warrants Issued	Numbers	_____	Through	_____	_____
Payroll Transactions Voided	Numbers	_____			<u>(\$ 1,080.56)</u>
Payroll Direct Deposits Issued	Numbers	<u>2022022</u>	Through	<u>2172022</u>	<u>\$ 640,251.01</u>
Electronic Fund Transfers Completed					
<i>Vendor</i>	<i>Date</i>				<i>Amount</i>
State Family & Medical Leave	February 9, 2022				2,812.98
Federal	February 9, 2022				105,197.28
Oregon	February 9, 2022				3,550.20
ADP Fee	February 18, 2022				4,525.50
ADP Fee	February 23, 2022				1,639.00
State Family & Medical Leave	February 24, 2022				2,790.80
Federal	February 24, 2022				106,204.27
Oregon	February 24, 2022				3,582.07
WA Department of Revenue	February 11, 2022				807.01
Endicia (postage)	February 3, 2022				9,000.00
Kaiser	February 25, 2022				20,719.86
WA Dept of Retirement	February 11, 2022				6,281.80
WA Dept of Retirement	February 15, 2022				77,111.31
					<u>\$ 344,222.08</u>
Total Transactions for Approval					\$ 2,527,279.64

 DISTRICT LIBRARY - AUDITING OFFICER

 BOARD CHAIR

 BOARD MEMBER

 BOARD MEMBER

 BOARD MEMBER

 BOARD MEMBER

 BOARD MEMBER

 BOARD MEMBER

BOARD COVER WORKSHEET

BOARD DATE: March 21, 2022

Date Paid	Warrant Numbers	Amount	Void/Cancel Amounts
Accounts Payable			
February 4, 2022	114354-114407	211,826.86	
February 11, 2022	114408-114431	48,362.04	
February 18, 2022	114432-114497	230,551.17	
February 25,2022	114498-114565	982,811.72	
Total Accounts Payable Warrants Issued		1,473,551.79	

Accounts Payable EFT Payments			
February 1, 2022	EFT20220201-10	45,028.92	
February 3, 2022	EFT20220204-11	18,992.54	
February 11, 2022	EFT20220211-10	2,319.88	
February 18, 2022	EFT20220218-4	5,409.50	
Total Accounts Payable EFT Payments		71,750.84	

Accounts Payable Voids and Cancels			
February 18, 2022	113874		379.40
February 25,2022	114498		154.00
February 25,2022	114499		441.06
February 25,2022	114563		441.06
Total Accounts Payable Warrant Voids and Cancels			1,415.52

Total ADP ACH Auto Pull			
February 9, 2022	Payroll	320,871.67	
February 9, 2022	State Family & Medical Leave	2,812.98	
February 9, 2022	Federal	105,197.28	
February 9, 2022	Oregon	3,550.20	
February 18, 2022	ADP Fee	4,525.50	
February 23, 2022	ADP Fee	1,639.00	
February 24, 2022	Payroll	319,379.34	
February 24, 2022	State Family & Medical Leave	2,790.80	
February 24, 2022	Federal	106,204.27	
February 24, 2022	Oregon	3,582.07	
Total Payroll Direct Deposit Transfers		870,553.11	

ACH EFT Transfer			
February 11, 2022	WA Department of Revenue	807.01	
February 3, 2022	Endicia (postage)	9,000.00	
February 25, 2022	Kaiser	20,719.86	
February 11, 2022	WA Dept of Retirement	6,281.80	
February 15, 2022	WA Dept of Retirement	77,111.31	
Total ACH EFT Transfers		113,919.98	

Payroll Voids/Cancels			
February 9, 2022	ADP Return check		1,080.56
			1,080.56

Subtotal FVRL General Fund Warrants, Transfers, Direct Deposits, Void	2,529,775.72	2,496.08
--	---------------------	-----------------

Finance Director Reviewed 

Date 3/17/

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Equal Opportunity Employment Policy

PURPOSE

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District (FVRL) is committed to fair and equitable recruiting, hiring, promoting and appraising of its employees. We express this commitment through application of the following policy.

POLICY

FVRL and its Board of Trustees affirm a continuing commitment to equal employment opportunity in accordance with State and Federal Laws and Regulations for all employees and applicants for employment within FVRL, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, age, marital status, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, presence of a sensory, physical or mental disability, genetic information, liability for service in the Armed Forces, or whether a disabled, or Vietnam Era or other protected veteran or any other status protected by applicable nondiscrimination laws.

This policy applies to all areas of recruitment, hiring, training, retention, promotion and discipline and to all job classifications. The policy extends to all personnel actions including compensation, benefits, transfers, layoffs, return from layoff, education, social and recreational programs for all persons.

The Human Resources Director has been appointed Equal Opportunity Officer and is responsible for monitoring employment practices to assure compliance, and if necessary, to institute corrective measures to achieve and maintain fair, equal and optimum utilization of resources.

Every staff member is expected to take the actions necessary to assure that FVRL is an equal opportunity employer.

ADMINISTRATION

The Executive Director is responsible for the administration of this policy, for establishing administrative procedures for its implementation and for making the policy available for the public at each branch and via the Library's web site.

Severability: The Board of Trustees hereby declares its intention that the provisions of this policy are declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, chapter, title or other portion of this policy, or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the policy, or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

Continuance: The Board of Trustees hereby declares its intention that the provisions of this policy shall be construed and applied as a continuation of the provisions of the policy, as amended, insofar as applicable, and the repeal of any part of this policy shall not be construed as affecting such continuous application.

Applicable Policies: Equity Policy, Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy

Applicable Law: RCW Chapter 49.60 Washington Law Against Discrimination, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, US Equal Pay Act of 1963, Age Discrimination in Employment Act, sections 501 and 505 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, Pregnancy Disability Act, Sections 102 and 103 of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008

Board Approved: Original Policy May 13, 1976; Revised and Reaffirmed April 21, 1981; Revised and Reaffirmed February 11, 2002; Revised and Reaffirmed December 8, 2008; Revised and Reaffirmed

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
Staff Report 2022-09
New Facilities Update

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Amelia Shelley, Executive Director

DATE: 03/21/2022

SUBJECT: Updates to current new facility projects

SUMMARY: FVRL is currently working on multiple projects to provide new library facilities per the 2014 Strategic Facilities Plan.

1. Brush Prairie Community Library Study

The Board allocated an additional \$500,000 in capital support for this project in February. Staff have provided an [analysis of the feasibility](#) and need for a small branch library on our Brush Prairie property. A decision to go forward on this project would require Board action under the [Purchase, Lease, Exchange and Sale of Real Property Policy](#).

FVRL is exploring options for developing the site. Staff would like the Board to consider an option to purchase existing plans for a building to reduce architectural fees and the time needed to design a new facility. Architectural services would still be needed for interior design and finishes. No budget has been developed for this option. Budget assumptions would include public works construction costs, site development costs.

2. Woodland Community Library - Schematic Design/Construction Drawings

The Board of Trustees approved the reduction in scope of the Woodland Community Library project in December from 11,000 square feet to 7,500 square feet to come in line with the project budget of \$5.5 million. FVRL is working with Hacker Architects to set parameters for the redesign agreement and is awaiting a revised contract. The work on the redesign will start immediately with a new schedule due out soon. The Board allocated an additional \$1.5 million in capital support for this project in February. A public presentation on the project is scheduled for later in April.

Woodland Community Library Budget				
Revenue Source	Allocated	Estimates	7500 sf	Gap
WA Capital Grant	\$ 2,016,320	Cost of construction	\$ 4,875,000	
Friends	\$ 642,395	Soft Costs	\$ 500,000	
FVRL	\$ 2,415,536	Contingency @ 10%	\$ 520,000	

Foundation	\$ 144,701	FF&E	\$ 250,000	
Total	\$ 5,218,952	Total	\$ 6,145,000	\$ 926,048

3. Washougal Community Library Conceptual Design

FVRL is working with Hacker Architects on a conceptual design for the new library. Two public meetings were held on March 17 in Washougal to solicit community input. Both meetings were well attended. The current budget estimate for this project is \$7.6 million. The Board allocated an additional \$1.5 million in capital support for this project in February. The Friends of the Washougal Community Library and the Foundation have raised approximately \$330,000 combined to date.

Washougal Community Library Budget (Estimated)				
Revenue Source	Allocated	Estimates	13,000 sf	Gap
Grants		Cost of construction	\$ 6,000,000	
Friends	\$ 207,121	Soft Costs	\$ 600,000	
FVRL	\$ 2,992,678	Contingency	\$ 600,000	
Foundation	\$ 124,766	FF&E	\$ 400,000	
Total	\$ 3,324,565	Total	\$ 7,600,000	\$ 4,275,435

4. VITA School/Operations Center/Grand Blvd.

We were invited to tour the new school building this past month. The scheduled opening is planned for this fall. The first year will be a special training schedule for teachers with rotations of students every two weeks and no K-1 classes until the second year. We are continuing to work on the Operational Agreement for our areas of joint access (emergency egress, parking lot egress, trash enclosure) and are getting closer to agreement.

The Operations Center work is complete and all staff have returned to the building. We will close out the two remaining temporary locations this month with cleaning and utilities. We continue to work on planning the new space at 2018 Grand Blvd. and have a revised lease agreement with Sea Mar through June of 2022. We are hoping to submit for permitting as soon as possible so we can issue an RFP for a contractor and get someone on board as soon as possible.

**Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
Staff Report 2022-08
Finance Report - Port of Vancouver Tax Increment Finance Area**

TO: FVRL Board of Trustees

FROM: Amelia Shelley, Executive Director

DATE: 03/21/2022

SUBJECT: Impacts to FVRL from the formation of Tax Increment Finance Areas

Summary: The Port of Vancouver (Port) has proposed a Local Tax Increment Finance Area (LTIF) to be used to finance public improvements on their Pier 1 properties. The POV estimates that the total cost of public projects is \$36.75M in today's dollars, but that inflation will result in actual project costs being closer to \$50.2M, and total debt service on the bonds to fund those projects will be \$75.5M (including the cost of interest payments). The TIA is estimated to generate \$49.8M of total tax revenue over 25 years to pay for that debt service, with the remainder of the debt service being covered by the Port's existing property tax levy authority.

The Port's plans include improvements to:

- Pier 1 dock replacement
- Groundwork and construction of Renaissance Trail
- Dock landscaping
- Completion of Daniel's Way
- Improvements to the East Portal
- Public restrooms

Tax Increment Financing

In 2021, Washington passed legislation which allows local government - defined as cities, towns, counties, port districts, or any combination thereof – to create Local Tax Increment Finance (LTIF) areas to fund public improvements. The resulting 39.114 RCW impacts cities, counties and other taxing districts by capturing the increment of property value growth due those entities over a set period of time or amount of tax collections. It excludes any property taxes imposed by school districts, excess school levies, state support for schools, public utilities, and existing bond financing. Library Districts are not protected from this loss.

A Tax Increment Area (TIA) is property identified by a county, city or port district that requires public improvements to allow for development. The taxing entity creates the TIA as a means to leverage the increasing value of new or existing taxable property to service the debt created by the LTIF. The governmental entity creating the LTIF is able to retain the new increment of taxes on identified properties that would have previously gone to other taxing agencies. LTIFs are used to pay for public projects and service the associated debt on limited tax general obligation bonds (LTGO).

Once the LTIF has been paid off, any additional funds collected must be returned to the County Treasurer for distribution to the taxing entities impacted by the TIA.

Key points on Local Tax Increment Financing Areas:

- Limited to 20% of jurisdiction's TAV
- Limit of two TIFs per jurisdiction (max \$200,000,000)
- No modifications once created
- Less than 5 years to perform improvements, up to 25 years for debt service
- Anticipates private development and increasing values
- Uses levies of overlapping taxing districts to determine amount
- Calculated on base amount of TAV for property

Impacts

The main impact to FVRL is foregone property tax revenues - future increases to the base value of the property. Those lost revenues (as estimated by the Port) are approximately \$4.3M over 25 years.

Key points:

- Port's Pier 1 property currently assessed at \$0 TAV (exempt)
- Loss to FVRL starts low, ends @ approx. \$237K a year
- Includes any future levy lid lifts
- Ends when debt is paid off or 25 years, whichever comes first
- Development less likely to occur or happen as quickly without the investment
- POV assumes risk if TAV does not rise as anticipated over time
- Benefits jobs, sales tax revenues, economic development
- Allows for additional waterfront amenities

Staff recommendation

TIF projects are bound to become more common as a financing tool and it is not something FVRL can control. It will complicate our levy calculations to some degree. Time will tell how much it impacts our overall growth potential. I encourage the Board to attend one of the Port's public informational sessions to learn more.

	February Circulation			YTD Circulation		
	2022	2021	Change	2022	2021	Change
Battle Ground Community Library	39,491	24,464	61.42%	81,418	50,943	59.82%
Cascade Park Community Library	57,259	36,357	57.49%	118,250	77,237	53.10%
La Center Community Library	5,953	4,389	35.63%	12,346	9,231	33.74%
Ridgefield Community Library	8,164	4,460	83.05%	17,423	9,590	81.68%
Three Creeks Community Library	40,195	27,202	47.76%	84,679	55,708	52.01%
Vancouver Community Library	49,402	32,142	53.70%	102,395	70,359	45.53%
Vancouver Mall Library	10,822	7,695	40.64%	22,324	16,342	36.61%
Washougal Community Library	7,143	6,776	5.42%	14,778	14,414	2.53%
Green Mountain Library Express	239	16	1393.75%	451	76	493.42%
Yacolt Library Express	4,328	2,596	66.72%	9,082	5,203	74.55%
LibCabinet at Vancouver Mall	7	1,130	100.00%	23	0	100.00%
Clark County Total	223,003	146,097	52.64%	463,169	309,103	49.84%
Woodland Community Library	4,246	3,730	13.83%	9,049	7,887	14.73%
Yale Library Express	733	166	341.57%	1,333	296	350.34%
Cowlitz County Total	4,979	3,896	27.80%	10,382	8,183	26.87%
Goldendale Community Library	5,736	3,277	75.04%	11,483	7,205	59.38%
White Salmon Valley Community Library	9,325	6,716	38.85%	19,161	14,422	32.86%
Klickitat County Bookmobile	962	160	501.25%	1,855	353	425.50%
Klickitat County Total	16,023	10,153	57.82%	32,499	21,980	47.86%
North Bonneville Community Library	342	552	-38.04%	786	1,146	-31.41%
Stevenson Community Library	4,022	3,363	19.60%	8,152	6,808	19.74%
Skamania County Bookmobile	1,014	150	576.00%	1,939	359	440.11%
Skamania County Total	5,378	4,065	32.30%	10,877	8,313	30.84%
District-wide renewals	107	206	-48.06%	240	420	-42.86%
Mail	1,136	4,341	-73.83%	2,288	8,599	-73.39%
InterLibrary Loan Materials	288	25	1052.00%	536	62	764.52%
Misc Total	1,531	4,572	-66.51%	3,064	9,081	-66.26%
Downloadable eBooks	51,967	61,327	-15.26%	110,474	129,911	-14.96%
eMagazines	1,789	3,022	-40.80%	3,674	5,883	-37.55%
Downloadable & streaming audiobooks	47,697	49,067	-2.79%	99,906	104,101	-4.03%
Downloadable & streaming music	16,560	25,880	-36.01%	36,458	55,504	-34.31%
Streaming video	7,458	10,374	-28.11%	16,305	20,748	-21.41%
eContent Total	125,471	149,670	-16.17%	266,817	316,147	-15.60%
TOTAL	376,385	318,453	18.19%	786,808	672,807	16.94%

La Center Community Library building dates back to the 1900s

thereflector.com/stories/la-center-community-library-building-dates-back-to-the-1900s,284948

The Reflector



Posted Monday, February 21, 2022 5:23 pm

Sebastian Rubino / sebastian@thereflector.com

Although the La Center Community Library has been operational since 2004, the existence of the building dates back to the early 1900s.

The building on Northeast Lockwood Creek Road was constructed sometime between 1905 and 1907, based on conflicting historical sources.

The building's original purpose was far removed from a library, however.

“It was built by Dr. Charles Ralph Zener,” said Tak Kendrick, the communications and marketing director of the Fort Vancouver Library District. “It served as a hospital and a drug store. In 1999, the property was bought up and they were almost going to set up a fire training exercise to destroy the building for firefighters.”

In 1999, Kendrick said the property was purchased by Margaret Colf Hepola, a civic activist and preservationist who prevented it from being demolished. Hepola had a personal connection to the building as her mother used to work there, according to a document from the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission.

The Colf Family Foundation, which was housed at the building, later moved less than a mile up the road to its current location in 2001, Kendrick said. In 2004, the Northeast Lockwood Creek Road building was remodeled into a library. The railing next to the stairs inside of the building and one of the windows was kept in its original condition.

According to Kendrick, the Friends of La Center Community Library group helped raise funds for the renovations. A document stated that some of the fundraising efforts involved spaghetti dinners and tea parties, as well as a \$1 million donation from the Colf Family Foundation. One of the renovations included the balcony on the second floor in the front of the building, as a fire escape was added for safety measures, the document stated.

The historical significance of the library has been demonstrated not only in the building itself, but outside of the building as well.

“When they were working to get (the building) prepared to be a library space, they required a lot of donations from the community,” said Eric Brengle, the senior branch supervisor of the library. “One of the ways they had originally done this was by having donors buy commemorative bricks with information engraved on them on the walkway out front. But over time, those bricks have really worn down and some of them are really hard to read, so just recently the Friends of La Center Community Library put a poster together that captures the information, so we don’t lose the authenticity of the original bricks, but we have all the messages of dedication still preserved.”

The framed poster hangs on a wall on the first floor of the building.

“Putting that poster together required a lot of digging back through the old records to figure out what some of them said, since we can no longer read the bricks as they are now,” Brengle said.

Brengle feels the library building has great cultural and historical significance.

“The best perspective of it I have is what I hear from patrons in the community,” he said. “I think people appreciate the fact that the building has long roots in the area. It’s been multiple different things in its time, with its origin as a hospital linking back to the area in a way I think a lot of people find appealing. The fact that it has been adapted into its current usage in a way that allows people to come in and still make use of the space is kind of nice. They have this connection that’s older from the community, but it’s still open and accessible to them in a new and punctual way.”

The library is located at 1411 NE Lockwood Creek Road in La Center. It is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except for Sundays and Mondays.

Comments

No comments on this item [Please log in to comment by clicking here](#)

Group says library contains troubling material

goldendalesentinel.com/news/group-says-library-contains-troubling-material/article_6618815c-94da-11ec-a8ea-2b353e23516f.html

Lou Marzeles

February 23, 2022



Some parents in Goldendale feel the Goldendale Library has become a mine field for their children, with content wildly inappropriate for young ages within all-too-easy reach of small hands. The library says it's parents' job, not theirs, to control what children get their hands on.

Before coming to Goldendale, Olga Hodges was a health educator and project manager for Multnomah County Public Health Department in Portland, working with 13 different middle and high school clinics. Hodges now has become central organizer of a sizable constituency of concerned library patrons. She says it would be preferable to see the library be a perfectly safe place, in every section, to bring her kids, and, while they're at it, get higher quality books in there. But initially her focus is on a more immediate goal. "We're not asking the library to get rid of books we don't like," she says. "We want books to be placed in age-appropriate sections of the library."

Camas Lions donate to Washougal library fund

camaspostrecord.com/news/2022/feb/24/camas-lions-donate-to-washougal-library-fund

February 24, 2022

February 24, 2022 11:56 am | [comments](#)



Camas Lions Club President Brian Scott (left) presents Washougal Community Library Branch Manager Rachael Ries (right) with a \$1,001 check to help fund the new Washougal library building. Lone Wolf Development has donated land for a new library on Durgan Street between Main and "C" streets in downtown Washougal. (Photo courtesy of Camas Lions)

The Camas Lions recently donated \$1,001 to the Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation to contribute to the Washougal Community Library Building Fund.

The donation makes the local Lions group a Cornerstone Society-level donor for the project, the Foundation noted in a news release.

“The Camas Lions are a local group of service-minded volunteers dedicated to helping others in the greater Camas-Washougal community since 1938. Our altruistic focus stems from championing kindness and actively improving the lives of all people, especially those with the most need,” stated Camas Lions Club President Brian Scott. “The Camas Lions decided to donate to the Washougal Library Building Fund because it aligns with our long-standing commitment of supporting literacy in the community.”

For more information about the Foundation or the Washougal library building fund, visit fvrlfoundation.org.

Council meeting focuses on library content

goldendalesentinel.com/news/council-meeting-focuses-on-library-content/article_e99164d0-9a5d-11ec-9778-0ff8b6db6726.html

Rodger Nichols

March 2, 2022



The Goldendale City Council meeting on February 21 was dominated by a citizens group concerned with some of the materials available at the Goldendale Library.

Councilor Steve Johnston brought the issue to the council as a presentation. Mayor Mike Canon explained to the audience that by doing so, it gave citizens there a chance to comment for more than the three minutes allotted each person during the regular public comment period, which occurs at the end of the meeting.

Johnston led by saying that what he was about to say was “little short of a tirade.”

“The library issue is directly related to public education,” he said. “It’s an arm of public education, which is owned and controlled by the liberal state and teachers’ unions. There is a systematic assault by a radical left wing progressive socialist Marxist fascist element in this country, with full support of large corporations and the liberal mainstream and social media to erode and destroy our traditional values, morals, Constitutional rights, and God-given liberties.”

The people who showed up at the meeting in person were part of a larger group that gathered in response to an incident reported on social media by Olga Hodges, who served as the lead spokesperson at the council meeting. She told the council that she had taken her three children to the library to print out some material, and said she had been startled by some of the books she saw:

“We saw typical stuff that kind of rubbed me the wrong way,” she said. “I was not really happy with it. The first book I saw was about talking to your children about white privilege. I wondered why six-year-olds need to know about that. Along with that, I saw a book about tarot reading, and I thought, how do we wipe that out?”

Then, she said, they went upstairs to the section marked for 12 to 18-year-olds where she saw a book on display that really concerned her

“I look and there’s a mature rating on here, and I’m thinking, ‘OK, that’s interesting,’” she said. “First thing I open up to, there are two minors engaged in sex, naked. I’m thinking, ‘Wow, that’s pretty inappropriate.’”

Hodges had printed out examples from the unnamed book and others she found, telling council members she found the books depicted “things like child pornography, sex with minors, things like torture, child sacrifice, explicit sexuality, explicit nudity, fetishism. Things that made my skin crawl.”

Seeing the material, she then sought out the librarian.

“She offered me a form, which I did accept,” Hodges said. “I was kind of frustrated because, you know, I was like, she was probably was just going to come down to see which to review. Nope. Firm resistance and pushiness, and ultimately she called the police on me and my children, and we were escorted out by a policeman.”

Police Chief Jay Hunziker explained to the council that even though it’s a public building, if the person who controls the building asks someone to leave and the person doesn’t leave, that’s trespassing, and people can be charged for that. This did not happen in this case, and Hodges said the officer was respectful and supportive.

Hodges stressed that she was not a book burner or a witch hunter, that she was just a concerned parent.

A number of people spoke, including Luke Throop, who said “It is difficult sometimes to connect all the dots, to understand, how does LGBTQ rights, how does CRT [Critical Race Theory], how does, say, comprehensive sex ed fit into the political landscape of what’s going on? How does this all come together?”

He answered his own question, saying, “There is a common enemy. There is a movement afoot that has been in motion for decades, longer than I have been alive. I am sure many of you know, it comes straight out of the Communist Manifesto.”

Others, however, cautioned the council about their course of action. One of those was council member Dave Jones, who said it was really easy to jump on a bandwagon and that such things had led to bans on books such as *Catcher in the Rye*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *1984*.

Rick Lundin had this comment: “This is an extremely slippery slope,” he said. “Who sits on a council and says, ‘This is offensive,’ or ‘This is not offensive?’ This has been done in America, and it’s rarely worked out well.”

Ultimately, the council voted to examine the nature of the current agreement between the city and the Fort Vancouver Regional Library. The city is in an unusual position in that the city owns the building, but the library is operated as a branch of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library.

As part of that motion, which passed unanimously, councilors set up a subcommittee to involve citizens in a public process to see what might be done.

In the limited time of the meeting that wasn't part of the hour-long discussion, council members voted a necessary budget adjustment to cover increased costs for the new police car authorized at the last meeting and had a first reading of an ordinance that would double council members' salary from \$100 a month to \$200 a month, noting that state law says current members can't qualify for an increase until after they face the public in an election. So those who are elected this November won't get their pay increase until they start their next term in January.

Washougal library manager has bittersweet goodbye; updates community on quest for new library building

camaspostrecord.com/news/2022/mar/10/bittersweet-goodbye-washougal-library-manager-leaving-position-on-april-1-but-looking-forward-to-seeing-progress-on-new-library-building

March 10, 2022 1:19 pm | comments

March 10, 2022

Doug Flanagan/Post-Record A sign marks the future home of the new Washougal library.

Washougal Community Library patrons look at books on April 20, 2021. (Contributed photo courtesy of Rachael Ries)

(/Post-Record)

Rachael Ries says she has thoroughly enjoyed her tenure as the branch manager for Fort Vancouver Regional Library's Washougal location.



During the past five years, she's worked hard to form positive community relationships and create long-lasting productive partnerships that benefit everyone involved. She will always look back on her time in Washougal with fondness and pride.

That's why Ries describes her upcoming job change – she is set to leave the Washougal branch to take over as the branch manager of FVRL's Cascade Park library on April 1 – as "bittersweet."

"I am really connected to the community, and we have a lot of partners and partnerships that I created and established, and that's going to be really difficult to leave behind," Ries said. "Hillary Marshall, the librarian at the high school, and I have done a lot of work together, and you just don't find community partners like that all the time. Bolt and Amy (Minister) over at 54-40 Brewing Company do so much for our community, too. We started the book group over there and early on helped them get started with trivia, which they now run themselves. All of these different ways that we have tried to provide opportunities and reach people in Washougal rather than just in the confines of the library, I'm going to miss that."

Ries joined the FVRL system in 2012, when she was hired as a library assistant for the downtown Vancouver branch. She was promoted to circulation supervisor later that year, took the same role in Washougal in January 2014, accepted a reference librarian position at the Vancouver Community Library in March 2015 and succeeded Christine Hughey as Washougal's branch manager in December 2015.

“Part of the reason why I wanted to move to Cascade Park is that it’s a good opportunity for my professional growth,” Ries said. “It’s a larger branch, and I will be able to mentor and work with more staff. There is specifically one librarian, a supervising librarian in training, a newer position for our district, and it will be really nice to mentor her and help her develop. That, for me, is a big part of where I’m heading with where I see my leadership and roles in the district.”

Ries said that she will miss her coworkers and the Washougal residents who visited the library on a regular basis.

“We have an outstanding team here,” she said. “We work really well (together). They’re dedicated and creative, and they really care about the community and the library. It’s a good mix of personalities. ... And I wouldn’t be the librarian I am without (the patrons). I know that sounds a little cliché, but it’s true. They’ve been incredibly supportive. I can show up in different places like Safeway and folks would talk to me because they recognize me from the library. That connection, being in a community and part of that community, I’m going to miss that, too.”

Ries has been heavily involved in helping bring a new library to downtown Washougal, which the FVRL has committed to building at some point in the next several years. She won’t be the new facility’s first manager, as she previously thought she might be, but said she is still excited about the project.

“It would’ve been nice to see that project come to fruition, but I’m really proud of how much we did,” she said. “We had the ‘Dinner in White’ four years in a row and raised a lot of money. I’ve helped the Friends (of the Washougal Library) with some of their big fundraising events, and the (FVRL) foundation has been integral in those big fundraising projects like ‘Dinner in White.’ We’ve made really good progress, and I feel good about that. But even though I might be managing Cascade Park, I’m still invested in Washougal getting their library, because I work for the same library district.”

The Friends of Washougal Library will hold a “farewell celebration” for Ries from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, March 18, at the library, 1661 “C” St., Washougal.

Community meetings to discuss future library set for March 16

FVRL will hold its second round of community input meetings, featuring the architects of Washougal’s new library, on Wednesday, March 16.

The first session will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Children’s Home Society of Washington’s East Clark County Resource Center, 1702 “C” St., Washougal. The second session will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at 54-40 Brewing Company, 3801 S. Truman Road, Washougal.

Employees from Hacker Architects, the Portland-based firm FVRL selected in 2021 to lead the library’s conceptual and schematic design process, will show four different options for how the future Washougal library building might fit on the 17,424-square-foot parcel of downtown Washougal land near the intersection of “C” and Main streets, donated by Lone Wolf Development’s Wes Hickey in 2020.

Ries said the second round of community meetings will be similar to the first meetings to discuss the future Washougal library, with the architects presenting information and taking questions and comments from the public.

“We’ve completed the site evaluation,” Ries said, “and (the architects have) done some preliminary measuring and testing. One of the challenges that we have is that there’s a 6-foot slope, and that’s what they’ve had to look at — how to situate the library and still keep it on one level. That’s our goal — we do not want a two-level building if we can avoid it, and it looks like we’ll be able to do it on a single story. It’s more cost-effective and also easier to manage from a staffing and safety standpoint.”

The first public meeting, held in July 2019, was successful thanks to its high level of participation and thoughtful feedback from the Washougal community, Ries said.

“We really did comb through (the input), and the architects have taken those things to heart,” she said. “I think those input sessions were very helpful in hearing what our community wants and letting the architects know how to lay out the site and what to incorporate into the building.”

Ries said the architects are tentatively scheduled to come back for a third public meeting in the summer of 2022 to present their “full rendering of what the library could potentially look like on the inside and out in much more detail.”

There are still several unknowns when it comes to the future library, however, including when Washougal residents might see construction begin on the downtown site.

“It’s really hard to say,” Ries said. “It is really based on our funding. The (library) district approved another \$1.5 million toward our project, so it’s coming along, but an actual date, I couldn’t say. We’re roughly estimating \$7.5 million to build a 13,000-square-foot library, and we’re (collected) just under \$4 million, so we still have \$3.5 to \$4 million left to raise. This has really been more of a marathon versus a sprint.”

Fundraising group seeks new leader

The Friends of Washougal Library – a group that has been instrumental in fundraising for the new library facility – is currently seeking a new president.

“It’s an active group, and they’re supportive and very invested in this new library,” Ries said, “so it’d be a good group to join.”

Clark County turns the page on masks as state mandate ends

[columbian.com/news/2022/mar/12/clark-county-turns-the-page-on-masks-as-state-mandate-ends](https://www.columbian.com/news/2022/mar/12/clark-county-turns-the-page-on-masks-as-state-mandate-ends)

Becca Robbins, Dylan Jefferies, Griffin Reilly, Sarah Wolf, Shari Phiel, Lauren Ellenbecker



On June 23, 2020, Washington announced a statewide requirement for people to wear masks in public settings to slow the spread of COVID-19. That mandate was lifted in early July 2021 and quickly reinstated during the delta surge.

Today, the mask mandate will be lifted once again, and many in Clark County are hoping that it will mark the beginning of the end of the pandemic.

Others, however, aren't enthused. Some lost loved ones after the mask mandate was lifted last July. People who are immunocompromised worry that lifting the mask mandate is premature. Some will continue to wear masks in indoor public settings for the foreseeable future.

Masks will still be required in high-risk settings, such as health care, corrections and long-term care facilities. But in most indoor public settings, people will be able to go mask-free today.

Clark County Public Health Director Dr. Alan Melnick said that with cases and hospitalizations continuing to decrease and with the availability of vaccines, boosters and other therapeutic options for those who do catch COVID-19, he's cautiously optimistic that lifting the mask mandate now is appropriate. He encourages people who are at high-risk for severe disease, and those who are worried, to continue masking and avoid crowded indoor public spaces.

Above all, he recommends that more Clark County residents get vaccinated, and people respect the decisions of others — whether they choose to mask or not.

Here's a look at how Clark County agencies, businesses and schools will respond.

Schools, libraries

In Clark County's schools and libraries, the end of the statewide mask mandate is expected to be met with mixed emotions — but an overall understanding that those who choose to continue wearing masks are welcome to do so.

Craig Birnbach, spokesman for Evergreen Public Schools, said the district has no shortage of masks and additional personal protective equipment for students and staff who may continue to request them — a concern that Evergreen Education Association President Bill Beville had voiced last month.

“Most staff members are glad that we're at this point, in the sense that the numbers are down and we're trending in such a good direction and that we know getting back to a more normal or traditional school environment is good for our students,” Birnbach said. “I hate that word, ‘normal.’ We just want people to feel comfortable in whatever they choose.”

Throughout February, a string of small groups of students in Ridgefield, Battle Ground and elsewhere led a few dozen students in protest against the mask mandate, advocating for the freedom of choice for students attending public schools.

Emalee Bowers, 11, of Camas, said she doesn't think much will change for her.

“If you're more comfortable with it or without it, that's OK,” she said. “Whatever floats your boat, you know?”

Bowers was among a dozen or so children perusing books on the top floor of the Vancouver Community Library on Friday afternoon. In line with the new state guidelines, FVRLibraries will allow patrons to go without masks while indoors.

“It will be a relief to not have to be the mask police,” said Thia Levesque, a senior library assistant at the Vancouver Community Library. “I appreciated it while it was happening and for the reasons it was happening, but I think it's probably time. The important thing is that it's still a choice, whoever wants to keep wearing it can keep wearing it.”

Clark County businesses

SEH America, a local manufacturer of silicon wafers for semiconductors, isn't eliminating its mask mandate just yet. The company doesn't want to take masks off just to have to put them on again if there's a surge, said Pat McDonnell, vice president of operations.

"We're just going to stay consistent for a while," he said, adding the company expects to review the policy again in the first part of April.

"We operate seven days a week, 24 hours a day," McDonnell said. "We're very dependent on having our workplace really be safe, so we are just going to be cautious."

Pedigo, a Vancouver-based health equipment manufacturing company, plans to "follow the most up-to-date guidance and guidelines," said Paul Andrewjeski, customer service manager. Until now, the company has made an effort to follow what's happening with the rule changes and communicate that to employees.

Staff and guests at Beaches Restaurant and Bar, 1919 S.E. Columbia River Drive, will no longer be required to mask up.

"Everybody's pretty excited to take the mask off," said proprietor Mark Matthias, mentioning that guests haven't really had to wear them anyway, because they're eating.

"Although, if I have a team member who still wants to wear it for their own viewpoints, then we're going to allow that," he added.

Local government

When city and county offices open for business Monday morning, visitors and staff are likely to see few changes in effect. Some jurisdictions await further clarification from the state's Labor and Industries office before changing business hours and availability, for others, it's business as usual.

Steve Stuart, city manager for Ridgefield, said the only notable difference will be that masks are no longer required to enter public buildings. City staff also won't be required to wear masks while in the office.

"The city of Ridgefield's offices have been open to the public for a number of months now," Stuart said.

Ridgefield City Council won't be changing its meeting format either, which has been a hybrid of in-person and virtual meetings. Stuart said the council plans to continue that format for the foreseeable future.

“Except for maybe one or two meetings where there was a specific outbreak, our council has had in-person meetings for months. They’ve seen it’s a good opportunity for people to participate that might not be able to otherwise,” Stuart said.

Among those waiting for further guidance from Washington’s Labor and Industries are Clark County and the cities of Vancouver and La Center.

“We want to make sure we’re doing what they advise,” said Joni McAnally, communications specialist for Clark County.

The Clark County Council considered resuming in-person meetings in January but decided to hold off on making the change until after the rise in omicron cases had subsided. The council is expected to revisit the discussion in the coming weeks.

Clark County Public Health is also holding off reopening its public areas.

“We’re holding steady for now,” said Marissa Armstrong, senior communications specialist.

Armstrong said many of Public Health’s staff have been working remotely, although there are some staff members who work in the field or come into the office periodically. But the agency won’t be opening its doors to the public just yet.

“Our offices, like our vital records office and our environmental public health office that have public areas, those are going to remain closed to the public for now. We’ll be re-evaluating that in the coming weeks,” Armstrong added.

Those visiting Vancouver City Hall won’t have to wear a mask in the building. All city employees, on the other hand, are encouraged to wear a mask until the city receives further guidance on mask requirements.

There will also be more opportunities to use City Hall lobby services, such as submitting permit applications or paying parking tickets, when its hours of operation are extended beginning March 28, said Laura Shepard, city communication director.

The Vancouver City Council anticipates hosting its first in-person meeting that same day, which is still subject to the state’s labor regulations. The gatherings will be broadcast live through Clark/Vancouver Television and the city’s Facebook page for those who can’t join in at City Hall.

Criminal justice

Visitors to the Clark County Courthouse will also no longer be required to mask up. Superior and District Court administrations made masks optional, except for those who have been exposed to COVID-19 or who are immunocompromised.

Superior Court Judge Derek Vanderwood said the court felt comfortable following in the state and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's footsteps after consulting Clark County Public Health.

Some pandemic-fueled operational changes still remain in effect, such as conducting hearings via Zoom. The remote hearings mean fewer people are in the courthouse, so Vanderwood said that helps some feel more comfortable.

Courthouse officials are discussing which hearings will continue to be held virtually going forward.

Clark County Prosecutor Tony Golik said he's looking forward to seeing the faces of defendants, judges and jurors again. His office will also make masks optional beginning next week. He said trials have been especially difficult, and it's tough to litigate a case to a jury whose faces are covered.

Masks will still be required inside the Clark County Jail, and sheriff's deputies will continue to mask up in places where they are required, such as hospitals and care facilities, Sgt. Brent Waddell said.

People will not have to wear masks inside the sheriff's office's precincts, but the agency has not yet reopened the west precinct in Ridgefield.

Vancouver police officers will follow city policy and continue to mask indoors or with others until policies are updated, department spokeswoman Kim Kapp said. That means they'll continue to mask while transporting suspects or in public areas.

Anyone walking into a Vancouver police precinct will no longer have to wear a mask.