



Yale Valley Library District
PO Box 434
Ariel, Washington 98803

Regular Meeting

July 8, 2021

Location: Yale Valley Library Building

Attendees: YVLD Board of Trustees: Eric Reese, Chris Conroy, Tina Moir, Kathi Wheeler

FVRL: Amelia Shelley, Carrie Greenwood, Jennifer Hauan

YVLD: Lesley Miller, Sarah Gomulkiewicz

Guest: Jason Gomulkiewicz

1. Call to Order: Eric Reese, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. Agenda Approval: Wheeler/Conroy The motion was approved by each trustee present.
3. Introductions/Welcomes/Chair Announcements:

Eric announced this would be Chris Conroy's last meeting as a trustee. Her term expires this month. She has served on the board for 9 ½ years. Cynthia McAllister will be taking her place on the board. This is our first meeting in the new Yale Library building and the first face to face meeting of the trustees in over a year due to Covid-19.

Eric introduced Lesley Miller who will be Sr. Branch Supervisor. She will work 15 hours a week at the Yale Library and 20 hours at the Yacolt Library. Sarah Gomulkiewicz will staff at the Yale Library for 15 hours a week. Leslie worked at the Yale School for 6 years and her husband is employed with Washington Fish and Wildlife at the Speelyai Fish Hatchery. They have two children and she is very excited to be working at the library.

Sarah Gomulkiewicz has worked at the FVRL Library in Vancouver for 15 years. She and her husband, Jason have three children and live in Battleground.

4. Consent Agenda:

a. Minutes from the June 10, 2021 meeting were approved. Moir/Wheeler The motion was approved by each trustee present.

b. Approval of building project bills, reviewed by Tina Moir: Tina reported there are project costs remaining unpaid and not billed in the amount of approximately \$7927.69. It is waiting on an affidavit.

The billing due this month for construction costs is \$39,310.17. Less the Wave credit memo in the amount of \$2,036.17. Amount due is \$37,274.01. Conroy/Wheeler The motion was approved by each trustee.

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5. Financial Report

Carrie Greenwood, FVRL, reported we are 5% ahead of property tax collections. 59.89% of property owners have paid for a total of \$71,649.00. Carrie reported that ½ of the FVRL contract will be due next month. A trustee asked about new construction revenue. Carrie reported that Cowlitz County is moving slowing with permitting. Also Cowlitz County is one of the Washington counties where property owners may file paperwork to reduce or forgo property taxes due to the impact of Covid 19.

Amelia Shelley brought to the attention of the trustees that audit by the Washington State Auditor. The auditor noted in the audit that we should update our contract with FVRL. This has already been done. Chris Conroy also noted that the auditor still refers to library trustees as “elected” officials when we are appointed. Furthermore, we are not paid.

6. Building Project

a. Project Update

Amelia Shelley reported that tomorrow, July 9, will be the opening day of the remodeled Ridgefield library.

Jennifer Huaun and Amelia Shelley advised the board that the computer for our children’s area has not arrived. They are trying to find out where it is in the shipping process.

Amelia Shelley reported that an exterior water valve is leaking. It is possible that a truck ran over it and caused a crack. Nevertheless, it needs to be fixed. The cost will be approximately \$1300.00. FVRL has an agreement with JRT Mechanical for such emergencies. A motion was made to contact JRT Mechanical for repairs. Wheeler/Moir The motion was approved by each trustee.

A motion was made to amend the agenda to consider this action with JRT Mechanical to become permanent for emergencies. Conroy/Reese The motion was approved by each trustee.

b. Landscaping

Kathi Wheeler reported that there are no plans for landscaping at this time due to the water situation. She requested that it item still appear on the agenda as it is hoped that landscaping activities may start in the fall.

Fencing is also being considered on two sides of the property to prevent cars from driving through the library parking lot, across the fire district's area and onto the property directly behind. Tina Moir also suggested that she has some very large rounds from a tree she cut down on her property that could be used as a barrier. We will work to see if we can move and place them in strategic spots to block the trespassers.

c. Flag Pole

Chris Conroy and Kathi Wheeler presented a proposal by Bob and Barb Boyd for a flag pole to be purchased by YVLD for the west area of the library building. She estimates the cost to be approximately \$2300.00. However, the board discussed that figure does not include a concrete pad and electric lighting. Tina Moir discouraged the use of solar as it does not last during the dark winter months. She did have a solar light on the flag pole at the Cougar Post Office and it did not have enough power during the winter for all of the dark hours. The board would like to take action at the next meeting after investigating further costs and placing a budget of approximately \$3500.00. Amelia Shelley will forward to Bob Boyd the email up dates for raising and lowering the flag.

d. Stas Wall Hanging Systems

Kathi Wheeler presented a proposal for the Stas Wall Hanging systems for the new Yale Library. This system has been discussed through the Friends of the Yale Valley Library (FYVL) as a way to display art in the library. However, the FYVL felt that this should be purchased by the district for the library as a capital investment. The 'rails' to hang the art would be place in all the spaces that would display paintings, quilts, etc. Amelia Shelley pointed out that Ridgefield library installed a similar system just a different brand and the cost for our library would probably be about \$1,000.00. Kathi and Jennifer Huaun will meet at the library with Lesley Miller and measure wall space. Kathi will report back to the board.

7. Gifts of Art Policy

Kathi Wheeler presented the draft policy for gifting art to the YVLD. She said many people have had input into the policy and had been reviewed by the FYVL. One question coming from the Friends was would art donated be restricted or non-restricted. Board members felt that a gift of art should be unrestricted. Kathi suggested that a questionnaire filled out by the donor would answer that question and would be a consideration at the time of accepting or rejecting the donation. Amelia offered to add some wording to the policy. Chris Conroy brought up the possibility of the donor wanting a tax deduction. This would entail the art being appraised at the expense of the YVLD or the Friends. Again,

this could be resolved during the discussion of the questionnaire and accepting or rejecting the art. Kathi will rework the policy and bring it back.

8. Yale PO Box

Amelia Shelley reminded us that the PO Box is up for renewal and do we want to renew. Yes, was the answer as the address is on all our stationary for the library and the FYVL. Mike Conroy, treasurer for the FYVL will have a key as the statements that come through the PO Box. Kathi Wheeler will also have a key. At this time, we are not going to put up a mail box at the library.

9. Covid-19 Updates for Yale: Amelia Shelley

The libraries in the district are all open with little guidance from the state of Washington. Individuals who have not been vaccinated are asked to wear a mask, however, there is no requirement. Officials are looking to the Fall to reassess the issue.

10. Branch Manager Report: Jennifer Huaun

Jennifer reported that Revolutionary Reads has begun and books are available at all the libraries while they last. The book is **“The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez: A Border Story”**. On August 12, the FVRL libraries will host the author, Aaron Bobrow-Strain to discuss his book. This book was the 2020 Washington State Book Award for Biography. Dr. Bobrow-Strain is the professor and the Baker Ferguson Chair of Politics and Leadership at Whitman College.

The summer reading program at all the libraries, is underway. The summer reading program, **“Summer at Your Library”** is open to all ages of readers. There will be prizes of gift cards to local stores, a tote bag and a \$50 drawing.

FVRL is extending hours in all branches to be consistent with one another. All staff is working with Tele-Pin, a phone system that allows users to reach library operator for questions on Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm and Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 9am-6pm. There is not a phone at the Yale library. It is hoped to install a restricted phone here for the board and friends to call for information. This system also works as a PA system. This will be a way to monitor activities if there is a problem inside the library when the Express system is started. Jennifer hopes that the Tele-Pin will be working by next Monday. Holds are delivered to Yale on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Meeting Room reserve policy is not quite ready yet. Jennifer hopes that groups will be able to reserve online in the Fall. Right now, she will reserve the meeting room for the Board and the Friends.

Chris brought up that the main door is very hard to open if you are carrying an armload of books or if a patron is in a wheelchair. We hope to have that corrected with push lever that is easier to use to open the door.

E cards were discussed as a way to allow individuals to obtain an e card on line and be able to check out 2 books. They must come into the library where staff will help them check out their books, and also apply for a permanent library card.

11. No citizens were present at this time to comment.

12. Board Comments:

Chris Conroy, retiring trustee, said the experience has been amazing. The journey has exceeded her expectations. Kathi Wheeler told the story of attending a public meeting to close the Cougar Post Office. She talked to Chris about getting involved with the YVLD.

Chris became involved and was instrumental in moving the library building plans forward. Chris stated that so much help came from others such as Sam Wallin, Kim McNally and others. She continued by saying that Amelia Shelley is superwomen who came to FVRL just at the right time for YVLD!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm. Wheeler/Moir

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Wheeler, YVLD Board Secretary

Presiding Officer


Eric Reese (Sep 20, 2021 19:17 PDT)

Sep 20, 2021

YVLD Board Chair

Date