

Fall 2020 Pathfinder Meeting

Zoom

October 22, 2020

Attendees:

- Belt Public Library – Gladys Rayhill
- Blaine County Library – Valerie Frank
- Choteau/Teton Library – Karen Ferris, Della VanSletten
- Chouteau County Library – Sandra Larson, Janet Worrall
- Conrad Public Library – Carolyn Donath, Lacie Vermulm
- Dutton Public Library – Jean Harman
- Fairfield Public Library – Agnes Kolste
- Glacier County Library – Jamie Greco
- Great Falls Public Library – Susie McIntyre, Samantha DeForest
- Harlem Public Library – Colleen Bromer, Valerie VanVost
- Havre Hill County Library – Rachel Rawn, Chris Vincent
- Liberty County Library – Julie Erickson, Belinda Hawks
- Toole County Library – Heidi Alford, Peggy Tobin, Emily McDermott
- Valier Public Library – Cathy Brandvold, Janelle Holden
- Wedsworth Memorial Library – Nancy Royan, Melody Skogley
- Montana State Library – Tracy Cook, Ken Wall

Meeting began at 9:39am. Valerie Frank reminded members about online meeting etiquette and completed roll call.

Spring 2020 Meeting Minutes – Melody Skogley made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Valerie VanVost seconded. Motion carried.

Joys and Concerns

Belt Library

I suppose my joy and concern are pretty much the same thing. The county sold my library to the city of Belt. There have been many challenges including keeping the city council in check in terms of who controls what at the library. Working on new bylaws and adapting our ways to the ways of the city. No longer having autonomy and the ability to purchase our own items. During the transition, I became a brand-new employee starting over with my vacation/sick time. I did get a raise and better insurance so that was nice. Still a lot of issues to work out between the city council/mayor and the library board. It definitely has been a learning experience as to the rights and laws of the library board.

Blaine County Library

Joys:

- Summer Reading Story Walks at the Meadowlark Elementary School during lunch pickup was a success.
- We have resumed our Children's programs, in person, with mandatory hand washing, mask wearing for all patrons 5 and over and social distancing where applicable.
- We have a local farmer who grows a pumpkin patch every year and gives the pumpkins away the first week of October. People always want to donate money, so this year he asked if the library would like the money raised. We each worked a day at the Pumpkin Patch and the amount raised far exceeded my expectations. We are using the money for our Children's Programs.

Concerns:

- We had a budget cut.
- Like everyone, we also are concerned about the effects of COVID, on programs, circulation and just the overall mental wellness of our patrons and community. We miss seeing everyone!

Choteau/Teton Library

- Expressed gratefulness for community kindness that has been shown during this time; they have moved books around to improve the looks and flow; they have expanded their tech and WiFi.

Chouteau County Library

Our joy at the library is that we are seeing patrons coming and most are not giving us too much grief over having to wear masks. However, I feel like wearing a mask was part of the reason one of my librarians left to go work at the school.

Conrad Public Library

- Conrad Public Library is shut down again which is a concern.
- Our roof has finally been repaired. It has been leaking for 15 years and we finally found a contractor!
- Our Dolly Parton Imagination Library is going extremely well. We have 75 kids signed up and they are loving it, as are their parents.
- We have spent this closed time organizing and reorganizing, cleaning up patron records, and other computer projects. We are sick of the Corona and ready to be back to normal. It's been a tough year.

Dutton Library

Joys:

- Amazing support and flexibility from our library boards, staff, and community. Plus we're all still healthy=).
- I really can't express enough how grateful I am to the State Library for their amazing help in... well, everything we're doing! It would not be possible without them!!!

Concerns:

- We haven't been very good at virtual programs, but we're working on getting better (even if it's just linking patrons up to someone else's program=).

Great Falls Public Library

Joys:

- New Bookmobile ordered and fund-raising campaign started.
- Received two CARES grants through our Foundation. We are going to use the funds to create a drive through, purchase new shelves and carts to assist with quarantine and some other projects.
- The fantastic remodel of our Public Meeting spaces is almost complete.

Concerns:

- We had to close the Library for a week when a staff person tested positive.
- We are being threatened with a lawsuit over our policy requiring masks in the Library.

Harlem Public Library

Joys:

- Summer Reading in the Park /Story Walks in the park went well. We had donations from the school, Civic Association, and Friends of the Library, individuals that nearly covered the summer reading costs.
- The hotspots program is doing well with the hotspots checked out almost all the time.

- Also received a grant from Humanities Montana to purchase two additional hotspots and data.
- The new strategic plan for 2020-2023 is completed.
- The capital improvement project to have an automatic door opener for the handicapped entrance is completed along with the sidewalk repair at that entrance.
- Doing story time and book club virtually.

Concerns:

- Budget cut by \$4600.
- Covid concerns (like everyone) -numbers way down, miss the people, kids especially, lack of programming
- Former board member passed away.

Toole County Library

Joys:

- As we speak (as I type) our computer tech is installing 4 of our new computers. We'll have 6 new in Shelby and 2 in Sunburst. Shout out to 3 Rivers Communications for the grant to purchase these! Also, kudos to the State Library for providing hot spots, I-pads and a laptop (in the near future). My budget was passed with a substantial increase, mostly for repairs & maintenance. We will be getting new LED light fixtures in the library.

Concerns:

- Closing the library on Saturdays when there is lots of snow on the sidewalk. Our Commissioners don't want to pay our maintenance man overtime and he doesn't want to work on Saturdays. (Don't blame him). Insurance companies now scream if just anyone shovels for the liability issue. Gone are the "good ole days"I'm trying to advertise this snow closure issue. "Too much snow? No go" or "Too much snow? No show"?! lol.... I'll come up with something :)

Valier Library

- It has been very quiet here.
- We have our roof finished.
- Our doors are open to the public.
- We have students and office workers using computers to work during COVID.

Wedsworth Library

As with all or most of the libraries, Wedsworth Library is just trying to navigate through these times. We were able to obtain the Social Service Grant, so we have been making some changes and updates. Our community has been extremely glad that we have shared this grant with them by providing some masks, sanitizers etc. to the general public. Wedsworth Library felt we should be giving back to our community as they have always been generous in giving to the library. As many patrons' incomes have been affected, they are especially grateful because they haven't been able to afford some of the protection supplies.

- Ken Wall shared a story about a library in Broad Valleys helping a boy scout manage a little free food pantry for those in need.

Federation Funds Reminder – Pathfinder libraries are pretty good about how they use their federation funds. Tracy Cook quickly went through the different programs in the plans of service and allowable ways of spending that funding.

Updating ASPeN – the coordinator uses ASPeN to determine which trustees are the federation representatives of each library. It is very helpful if libraries update their ASPeN information to reflect

which trustee is the federation representative. Tracy Cook reported that the easiest way to do that is to change their title and that she can help people with making that update.

Contingency vote for use of any unspent funds due to meetings being held virtually – Valerie Frank reported that there is a total of \$860 that could become available if all meetings are held virtually. Last year the group decided to put the unspent funds towards MontanaLibrary2Go. Valerie wanted to know what the group wished to do this year as there are some unspent funds already. The group consensus was to use it for MontanaLibrary2Go. Peggy Tobin made a motion to give unspent funds to MontanaLibrary2Go. Jean Harman seconded. Motion carried.

MSL report

- Della VanSletten asked about the possibility of MontanaLibrary2Go being more compatible with Amazon Kindles. Susie McIntyre responded that Overdrive is the vendor/product that works the best with Amazon Kindles.
- Ken Wall gave an update on HB633 and upcoming legislation that may help bring more funds into the State Library. He also complimented the Teton County local government officials for their support and work with next gen 911.
- Tracy Cook led a discussion about libraries as an essential service. The group discussed why libraries are essential and challenges they have when communicating with others about this idea.

Next meeting will be 5/20/2021 in Fort Benton. The group will explore a hybrid model to be able to offer online/f2f meeting options.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Frank, Federation Coordinator