

Library Board Minutes 6.26.2025

City of Milton-Freewater

Library Board Meeting Minutes

The Library Board of the City of Milton-Freewater met Thursday, June 26 at 4:00 p.m. in the Monahan Room of the Library, 8 SW 8th Avenue, Milton-Freewater, Oregon.

The following members were present: Jennifer LeBlanc, Laurel Estes, Randy Reese, and Margo Piver

Absent were: Tricia Perez

Staff members present were: Library Director Lili Schmidt

Citizens present were: None

No press members were present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Minutes from April 24, 2025 were tentatively were approved as not all members read them nor was there a quorum at the beginning of the meeting.

UPDATES:

Schmidt provided updates:

Summer Reading sign-ups to date were Children 0-12: 169 ; Teens 13-17: 43 ; Adults 18+: 121. Summer Reading activities for children have started and are going well!

Total donations for the year exceed \$14,400 which is well over our \$5,000 projection.

Board members were provided the most recent and adopted Library budget for FY26. Director Schmidt noted that despite changes in projected General Fund Revenues nothing was cut from the Library budget except the Contingency budget. It started at \$20,000 during initial planning, and is now \$5,608. The Library budget total is to be \$563,545.

Director Schmidt included the latest funding email from the State of Oregon Librarian, Wendy Cornelisen. Funding for the Sage Consortium courier system has been funded through June 30, 2026 despite concerns over funding usually received from the IMLS. The email states that reauthorization for funding in FY27 will be brought to Congress with outcome unknown.

At the meeting April 24, Board Members were given a copy of the Library Strategic Plan from 2019. Schmidt would like to update goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan in FY26 and asked board members to read the current (expired) plan and come up with suggestions, thoughts and concerns for this meeting. Board member Margo Piver ran the goals through ChatGPT and it gave many new ideas and suggestions for activities that align with Library's current goals. Director Schmidt and Board members discussed ideas for over an hour. Highlights include:

Creating a Community Connections space or group for new community members, especially those in need who are in need of resources for integrating culturally, and linguistically. Other connections possible: multigeneration mentoring, dual language friendships.

Speak with local community members who may be interested in hosting “Voices of the Valley” storytelling nights about local history or other various topics of interest.

Continuing Displays that highlight cultural, religious, ethnic origin, LGBTQ+ diversity to represent all members of the MF community. It’s not always possible to host large events for every group represented, but representation can still be shown through items in the library.

Host family events so community members can show their own cultural diversity (example: Recipe exchange/Pot Luck, including cultural and historical information for people from different Latin American countries)

A long-time goal has been to host Immigration classes or workshops for people trying to get legal residency in the US. Due to the current societal issues (i.e. ICE raids, immigration status concerns) that goal needs to be delayed as to not place any group of individuals at undo risk. This will continue to be a long-term goal.

Create special Library Days during longer school breaks (winter & spring break) to encourage kids to come to the library to do art and play activities.

Revisit a volunteer-run home-delivery of library items to patrons who are home-bound. Explore waivers to possible insurance coverage.

The conversation was varied, a lot of great ideas were shared. Director Schmidt will continue to read through ideas presented, speak to staff and update the Strategic Plan.

Action ITEMS:

None at this time

Recommendations:

Next meetings will be August 28th

Board ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

There being no further action or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Minutes completed by Lili Schmidt 6.27.2025

Board Members