

City of Milton-Freewater Library Board Meeting Minutes

The Library Board of the City of Milton-Freewater met Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Monahan Room of the Library, 8 SW 8th Avenue, Milton-Freewater, Oregon.

The following members were present: Tricia Perez, Randy Reese, Judy Piper and Laurel Estes

Staff members present were: Library Director Lili Schmidt

Citizens present were: None

No press members were present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (no minutes available from previous meeting)

UPDATES:

Library Director Lili Schmidt introduced newest members, Tricia Perez and Randy Reese to the other board members. Schmidt then showed them the pending budget for FY 2025 and explained how the library is funded through the City and the Umatilla Co Special Library District. Then Schmidt detailed how the funding is spent (ex. Book budget, operating supplies, programming for adults and children, etc.) Library Board Members Randy Reese & Tricia Perez had many questions about what the City funds vs what the district funds. Examples of questions: Does the City provide all building maintenance? Schmidt said the City and Library share costs of major expenses (such as the replacement HVAC and mass light fixture replacement in 2023) but basic maintenance of plumbing, light bulb changes, heating/cooling maintenance, etc, is covered by Public Works. Schmidt said Janitorial service, payroll, accounts payable, and all utilities are provided to the Library free of charge. Cash Donations were also discussed, particularly the two large donations from the Friends of the Library group in the past year (new ADA door openers and Wonderbooks).

Schmidt gave Board members a brief history of the Library Summer Reading program and the plans for the current summer reading program for children, teens and adults.

Reese asked about the Genealogy & Local History room and the current preservation of some items. Schmidt said it was a challenging part of library operations due to lack of funding and time to work specifically on the items in that room. Reese said he was open to looking into the possibility of having the scanned newspapers on the Library website posted with a larger database of Oregon Newspapers funded by Oregon State University. Schmidt said she would love any help possible with this.

Before adjournment, the Board asked of any foreseeable upcoming issues and Schmidt said she would like to talk to the new City Manager (once he is settled in) about no longer charging overdue fines to patrons. The Board clarified that the Library would still charge fees for lost or damaged items. Schmidt said those items would still be billed at current replacement costs, but that fines cause a hindrance to library use. Schmidt stated that many people in the community are low-income and that \$40 in overdue fines would be the difference between groceries for the family or library use. Schmidt said she didn't want that to be a choice people make. Reese asked how often are we billing for lost items in a month and Schmidt said there isn't a notification of

that within the Library Sage system so that information was unknown. Perez said the library at the school she works for no longer even charges for lost or damaged library items.

Action ITEMS:

No action items for this meeting.

Recommendations:

Board members would like to meet every other month from now on. The 4th Thursday of the month at 4pm is acceptable to all still. Next meetings will be July 25th and Sept 26th

Board ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None at this time

There being no further action or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Minutes by Lili Schmidt

Board Members