**Pathfinder Spring 2022 Federation Meeting**

**May 5, 2022**

**Fort Benton**

Chair Patty Hall called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Coordinator Valerie Frank welcomed everyone and took care of housekeeping items.

**Roll Call:**

* Belt Public Library- Gladys Rayhill, Sally Miller
* Blaine County Library- Valerie Frank, Patty Hall
* Choteau/Teton Library- Della VanSetten, Karen Ferris
* Chouteau County Library- Emily Wicks, Janet Worrall
* Conrad Public Library- Tiffany Christensen, Lacie Vermulm
* Dutton/Teton Library- Absent
* Fairfield/Teton- Brett Allen
* Glacier County Library- Austin Castle, Becky Kimmet
* Great Falls Library- Susie McIntyre, Sam Deforest
* Harlem Public Library- Colleen Brommer, Teresa Cornell
* Havre-Hill County Library- Rachel Rawn
* Liberty County Library- Julie Erickson, Belinda Hawks
* Toole County Library- Heidi Alford, Emily McDermott
* Valier Public Library- Cathy Brandvold, Kathy Dean, Chris Grotbo
* Wedsworth Memorial Library- Nancy Royan, Melody Skogley
* Montana State Library- Cara Orban, Colet Bartow
* State Library Commission- Robyn Scribner-via Zoom

**Fall 2021 Minutes-** Janet Worral made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Karen Ferris seconded. Motion carried.

**FY22 Federation Expense Reporting-**Frank went over the Federation expense reporting procedure and reminded libraries they must spend all Pathfinder money in the fiscal year it was appropriated. The amount for FY22 is $2,359.31.

**Unspent Federation Funds:** $250.00 meetings (CCL) & $372.00 travel (BCL) total $622.00 donated to MontanaLibrary2Go.

**FY23 Plan of Service:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Program 0- Administrative Expenses** | **$1,385.03**  |
| **Program 1- Annual Meetings** | **$500.00**  |
| **Total amount that will be granted to individual libraries** | **$31,986.36**  |
| **Total expenditures** | **$33,871.39**  |
|  |  |
| **Each library will receive $2,284.74** |  |

Melody Skogley moved to accept the FY23 Plan of Service. Karen Ferris seconded. Motion carried.

**Federation Coordinator Election**- Teresa Cornell moved to re-elect Valerie Frank for another 2 year term. Sally Miller seconded. Motion carried.

**Bylaws Committee-** Bylaws will be reviewed by the committee and presented at the Fall 2022 meeting. Committee members: Colleen Brommer, Heidi Alford, Melody Skogley, and Janet Worral. It was suggested that changes should include clarification that attendance at meetings is based on calendar year, not fiscal year. Committee should also discuss the possibility of hybrid meetings with both in-person and on-line attendance. This was the first opportunity to try a hybrid meeting, and if we want to give members that option, it should be in our bylaws.

**Library Tour Crawl**-Frank contacted Amelea Kim, Lifelong Learning Librarian, and she is working on some ideas including working with the Montana Office of Tourism.

**Fall 2022 Pathfinder Meeting** -October 27th in Fort Benton.

**Joys and Concerns**

**Belt-** Joys: Saving to build addition, finally convinced the city to move money for the addition, working with the school for a SRP, using grant money to buy snacks. Concern: Budget does not include increases after the city bought the library from the county.

**Blaine-** Excited to do the Summer Reading Program. Looking forward to getting cabling and equipment upgraded. Started showing early out movies on Fridays and it has been a huge success, usually 20 to 30 kids attend. Concern: Budget as always.

**Choteau-** Joys: Old furniture is gone, 30-year-old shades being replaced, cabling will be upgraded. Concerns: Patrons are slowly coming back, also concerned about book club kits.

**Chouteau County-**Joy: Remodeling the Geraldine Branch; opening this summer. Concern: Getting people to return to the library.

**Conrad-**Joy: New people moving into the community. Concern: School bond levy.

**Dutton-**Joys: We can meet again in person ~ like this meeting in Fort Benton; and plan to meet in person ~ like our library board's annual fundraiser party scheduled for June 6th! YAY!!

Concerns: Will I remember how to act appropriately in large groups?

**Fairfield-**A lot to be grateful for in the last year. We added a 16 by 24 ft. addition to the library. This gave us a meeting room for the first time. Plus, a private area for interviews, job training, resume help, Story Times, Summer Reading, and any other use. New tables, chairs, a desk, big screen TV and an area rug for the new area. Also added all new windows, siding and roofing for the whole building and new metal railing installed on our handicap entrance. This summer we will have all new led lighting in the library, updated outlets and other electrical needs addressed.

Concerns: Staffing, since Tracie and I are the only the employees and part time at that, and we have busy jobs outside of the library. lt can be a challenge during normal times and we often work alone but unfortunately, we both had Covid at the same time and the library was closed for a week. Other than that, all the usual challenges and successes that come with the fun of rural communities and libraries.

**Great Falls-** Joys: Roof is fixed, cabling and Internet will be upgraded, creating a master plan.

Concerns: Funding, trouble borrowing book club kits, wondering about the book club kit Wikki, would like to do more sharing within the federation, wondering about using Kit Keeper, which Great Falls has. Rachel Rawn will discuss with MLA.

**Glacier County-** Joys: Open again, Summer Reading Program, Bear Tunk. Concern: Browning Library

Board member Becky Kimmet Joy: Austin.

**Harlem-**Joys:In person programs – weekly children’s programs and Book Club have been meeting since September,“Internet Security” from Triangle Communications, Virtual Programs – Two Humanities Montana Conversations speakers, Montana Poet Laureate. Foot traffic has picked up with more children and families in the library as well as others using our services. The library is hosting a Small Business/Entrepreneur gathering once a month. Friends of the Library is holding a silent auction for donated baskets fundraiser this spring. Inventory has been completed. Assistant librarian, Carly Vauthier, is a member of the Lifelong Learning Core Services State Committee.

Concerns: Budget? Hoping to get a janitor and part-time substitute. Waiting to find out if the county has approved our application for two projects to be paid from ARPA funding.

**Havre-Hill-** JoyElevator is finally working**.** Concerns:Spent so much to fix the elevator, had a situation with the guardian of an autistic boy, who wanted the library to call her if the boy came into the library. Concerned about state funding in 2023.

**Liberty County**-Joys are new adventure backpack program.  Concerns are inappropriate computer usage.

**Toole-**Joys: We're getting closer to reaching our 80% goal of in-putting items into MSC.  We're doing lots of weeding along the way, so that is a joy. Programs are picking up. Great board.

**Valier-**Joys: We have had several new families move into the community in the past couple years.  They have all found their way to the library! We are running adult programs again which are very well attended as folks are tired of being home. The After School Crew comes in every Thursday for art, crafts, science (blowing things up is the favorite) and presenters. Our Story Hour has grown amazingly with 20-25 littles attending.  Miss Linda has agreed to Story Hour this summer to keep the kids going. Summer Reading preparations are coming together.  We will also be running a program for adults this year. We have had nothing but positive comments on our upcoming Levy vote!

Concerns: Paving the parking lot. Passing the levy.

**Wedsworth**-Joys: We are going to name our new addition the ‘Jackie Strandell Addition’, which was built solely as the result of Jackie’s efforts, and we’ll have an open house once we receive the sign. We returned to in person programs with a great turnout. Patronage is slowly coming back.

Concerns:  We were saddened to lose a much-respected Board Member and to lose our former Director Jackie Strandell this year.

Motion made by Belinda Hawks to adjourn. Melody Skogley seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 10:38 a.m.

Kate McMahon from the Cooperative Development Center discussed ARPA funds and other grant opportunities available to libraries.

Julie Prigmore from the Center for Mental Health in Great Falls presented Navigating crisis in the Workplace. CE credit was earned.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Frank, Federation Coordinator