

Meeker Regional Library District Board Minutes
July 31, 2024

I Call Meeting to Order: The President called the Special Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
Board Members Present: Meredith Deming, John Moffitt, Dan Olson
Absent: Michael Cobb, Keri Grieser
Additional guests: Kristina Selby, Director

II Read and Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: Meredith moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Dan seconded. All in favor and so moved.

III Three-Minute Community Member Comments: Jennifer Key stated concern about the Board limiting the breath of materials.

IV Treasurer's Report:

- A. July Financial Report. Dan moved to approve the July Treasurer's report, Meredith seconded. All agreed, so moved.
- B. Sign Checks

V School Librarian news: No Report.

VI Librarian's Report: See attached.

VII New Business:

- A. ALA Conference report from Amber Garcia and Dan Olson. Dan presented his report, ~~see attached.~~ *not attached. discussed at sept. mtg.*

VIII Old Business:

- A. New Roof for Library. A to Z quoted \$85,000 to replace the entire Library roof. Board requested a 2nd bid from another contractor if possible. No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for: August 28, 2024, 5:30 p.m.



President



Secretary/Treasurer

Note Revised Sep 25, 2024

ALA Conference Board Member Report – Dan Olson –Report Provided 7-31-2024 This is an outline for the verbal report presented Mr. Daniel Olson on 7-31-2024. It has not been reviewed for grammar or spelling and was not intended to be a formal written report. Due to meeting time limitations, not all information in this report was presented during the meeting. Sessions Attended: Friday June 28th Day 1

1. Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee Meeting
2. GNCRT Friday Comics Discussion Forum – Marvelous Manga For Every Reader
3. Fellowship of Christian Librarians Annual Meeting
4. Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC)
5. Children Draw War Not Flowers – Virtual Art Exhibit

Saturday June 29th Day 2

1. Fostering Conversation and Connection Among Community Members with Contrasting Political Views

Sunday June 30 Day 3

1. Libraries as Literacy Centers: Digital World Best Practices in Adult Literacy Using tools like Northstar
2. How Manga Connects With LGBTQ Readers!
3. Library Boards & Trustees Discussion Group
4. ALA Code of Conduct Meeting
5. Explore Coral Reefs in the STEAM Pavilion – Presentation and Virtual session
6. Explore the Moon in the STEAM Pavilion – Presentation and Virtual Session

Monday July 1, Day 4

1. Demystifying AI for business and Libraries
2. Graphic Medicine – Meditations on Mental Health in Comics, The Haunted Girl
3. Building Homeschool Resources and Community Relationships at the Public Library
4. Navigate Excellence – Developing Effective Leadership and Management Skills in Modern Libraries
5. Immersive Experiences – Virtual Learning Centers

Time Accounting

- i. 17 total sessions attended
- ii. Several hours spent perusing the Exhibit hall and talking with book writers publishers

My intended focus –

1. Participate in sessions that would broaden my knowledge of book genres particularly those I am not drawn to or might not particularly enjoy.
2. Participate in sessions geared towards library board members

It was a generally good experience, and I would certainly do it again. Here are a few of my thoughts –

The good –

1. The venue was amazing with so many different options to participate in educational sessions, group discussions, committee meetings and meet-and-greet sessions.
2. Most speakers seemed truly passionate about the topics they presented which always makes the sessions more engaging.
3. Opportunities to hear other perspectives were plentiful
4. So many opportunities to delve into topics and technologies that you may not have otherwise had time to pursue
5. The wonderful benefit of question time at the end of each presentation. Sometimes I learn more from the question-and-answer part of the session than the session itself
6. Introduction to library programs that have worked well for other libraries
7. My Favorite learnings:
 - **AI** – Use in education and libraries- Many experts including librarians and teachers are apprehensive about the use of AI and how it might shape information delivery in the future.
 - **Virtual learning** – Explore the Moon, Explore Coral Reefs, Children Paint War not Flowers, Eartha White – Although there are some improvements to be made, the “Explore the Moon” presentation was nothing short of amazing.
 - **STEAM Centers** – Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics - attempt to offer people of all ages access to learning tools their school does not offer or cannot afford.
 - **Homeschooling Centers**- Rave reviews. California and New York saw the biggest jumps in home schoolers during the pandemic. Several large libraries recognized the increased use of libraries by homeschoolers and set out to meet the needs of this developing group as well as the children who were still part of the public school system but may not have been able to participate in hands on activities due to their schools being closed. All presenters mentioned being very concerned about issues that may arise with STEAM resource and facility use. Two libraries put minimal boundaries in place including putting their STEAM supplies behind glass cabinets or in a separate, dedicated room to keep younger children from pulling kits apart and mixing items. The librarians were overwhelmingly pleased with how well their homeschooling centers developed. Since homeschoolers were using the facilities during off times, there were very few room scheduling issues

and the homeschoolers were extremely respectful of the facilities and were very willing to share their knowledge of homeschooling with librarians; some even donating STEAM kits and supplies as well as curriculum to the library's home schooling center. Community response was amazing with some libraries seeing people drive from an hour away or more to participate in homeschooling groups, presentations and resources.

The bad

1. Sessions were on top of each other but meeting rooms were not.
 - a. This meant you had to leave sessions early, arrive to sessions late or skip sessions. This made the learning seem frantic and disjointed. Walk times may be as long as 20min or more depending on your walking pace.
2. Sessions of similar topics seemed to be peppered throughout and had overlap. Half day and full day sessions with progressive topic discussion would solve this.
3. The most meaningful library board session I attended was limited to discussion around one member's challenge in Library leadership.
 - a. While I greatly appreciate the passion and love that so many librarian presenters brought to their presentation, at times the sessions seemed more like a fun discussion time than a serious, get down to the brass tacks presentation. There are so many big issues and knowledge requirements that face library boards and librarians at this time that it would seem this might represent a larger portion of the sessions offered.
 - b. HOWEVER, I would like to mention that there were some "ticketed sessions" available that were half or full day and sounded as if they may offer more of the type of information I was hoping to obtain. It would be good to participate in at least one of these ticketed sessions next year to see if they address my prior thoughts.
4. There was only one committee meeting that I attended that they met a quorum of members, virtually or in person. These are the annual meetings, and it was sad that they were not able to take any action. Good members were requested!
5. In a session, an ALA employee seemed to matter-of-factly mention that the ALA did not support the first amendment rights of some groups on their online forum. In a hallway conversation with this same individual afterward, it was stated that ALA leadership made it very clear that only members of select groups would be allowed open discussion regardless of the conversation's tone or the behavior of the participants. The person's position in ALA makes these statements very credible. This person's statements were not solicited or requested, but rather seemed factual, neutral, responses to our primary conversation about consistent approaches to addressing individuals/groups with differing opinions (in other words the person wasn't complaining or saying anything they necessarily believed to be wrong).

If this is true, it is sad to think that the ALA has moved away from support of free speech to ultimately assuming the authority role in determining what speech will be heard and what speech will be suppressed/censored.