



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Session Minutes

Monday, February 14, 2022

HPLD Administration Building

2650 W. 29th St., Greeley, CO 80631

5:00 p.m.

1.0 OPENING OF MEETING AT 5:02PM

1.1 Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

All were Present unless noted:

Chair/Region 3: Ken Poncelow - Excused

Vice-Chair/Region 5: Mary Heberlee

Secretary/Treasurer/Region 4: Mary Roberts

Region 1: Trustee Teresa Curtis - Excused

Region 2: Trustee Gerri Holton

Region 6: Trustee Joyce Smock

At Large Trustee: Jana Caldwell

Quorum was established.

Legal Counsel William Garcia

Staff: Dr. Matthew Hortt, Brittany Raines, James Melena, Marjorie Elwood, Rosa Granado, Kim Parker

Guests: Brooky Parks, Dodie Ownes, Jayne Blodgett, Maria Foster, Ryan Grob, Tony Brewer, Tiah Frankish, Warren Mitchell

Vice-Chair Mary Heberlee read the following statement into record: *High Plains Library District (HPLD) is dependent on the trust of its community to successfully achieve its mission. Therefore, it is crucial that all Trustees conduct business on behalf of the High Plains Library District with the highest level of integrity, truth and honor, avoiding any impropriety or the appearance of impropriety.*

1.2 Approval of Agenda

MOTION to approve the agenda: Trustee Gerri Holton

SECOND: Trustee Joyce Smock

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Unanimously approved, 5:0

- 1.3 Approval of Consent Agenda
a. January 17, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
MOTION to approve the consent agenda: Trustee Jana Caldwell
SECOND: Secretary/Treasurer Mary Roberts
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: Unanimously approved, 5:0

1.4 Public Comment

Vice-Chair Heberlee read the following statement into record:

If attendee wishes to address the Board of Trustees, they must sign in. When you are recognized, attendee is asked to stand and state your name and address for the record. Attendees' comments will be limited to two (2) minutes unless the Chairman chooses to extend that limit. The Board may not respond to comments, but may take comments and suggestions under advisement and your questions will be directed to the appropriate staff person for follow-up. If comments are repeated by multiple members of the public, the Chairman may ask for those who agree to raise their hand and then ask the remaining speakers to provide new or additional input. Please note that Public Comment is to address items not currently on the Agenda. If you wish to address the Board in regard to items for discussion or action, please wait until the item is presented.

Public Comment by Tiah Frankish, Board President, Colorado Association of Libraries

Good evening, Executive Director Hortt and Esteemed Members of the High Plains Library District Board. My name is Tiah Frankish and I am the very newly elected President of the Colorado Association of Libraries. Last Friday, at our Executive Board Meeting, the CAL board voted to have me share the following statement this evening.

The Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) is a volunteer-run unified chapter of the American Library Association, and is the common bond, voice, and power for the Colorado library community. We are united to promote library services to citizens of Colorado, foster professional growth and development of our membership, provide essential resources, support and advocacy for Colorado Libraries and the communities that they serve, and support access to information. The Colorado Association of Libraries has tasked the Intellectual Freedom Committee(IFC) with educating the Colorado Library community about intellectual freedom principles and issues, and supporting First Amendment rights in all appropriate venues to promote the principles of Intellectual Freedom.

The CAL Board is encouraged that the High Plains Library District has consulted with ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom about their programming policy and encourages all libraries to follow ALA's guidance on effective policy language. The Colorado Association of Libraries advocates for clear and transparent programming policy that is evident to staff and inclusive to the library's community. CAL supports public libraries' adoption of Colorado Public Library Standards, as outlined by the State Library. <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/standards/index>

Additionally, we believe that robust discussion between staff and management around difficult issues is paramount to quality work environments. As a professional organization, CAL will be offering free or low-cost webinars in the coming months that will focus on approaching

difficult conversations with integrity, passion, and confidence from both a library staff perspective and a management position.

Please let the CAL Board, and by extension the CAL Intellectual Freedom Committee, know how we can support you in creating an atmosphere where collections, programs, and communities flourish.

Public Comment by Warren Mitchell

Thank you for letting me be here. I'll do my best to KISS: Keep it Simple, Stupid. For two minutes. It's very difficult with the passion I have right now. My passion is a passion that we have a new library coming in on 8th Avenue at the old Greeley Tribune building. We have a building out on 61st Avenue that is extremely well run named the W.D. Farr Library. I'm going to encourage you and give you all the motivation you need if you don't already have it – how many of you have read this book? It's in the Farr Library, by the way: that's where it's checked out from. It's called *Silver Fox of the Rockies*. It is the biography of Delphus Carpenter. Not Don, Don was his son. Let me read you just an excerpt from the acknowledgements in the front of this book, from the man who wrote the forward.

'The story of Delphus Emory Carpenter and Interstate Water Compacts first came to mind when I was writing *The Last Water Hole*. Arizona, California, and Nevada would have fought against the removal of the Colorado River from the Colorado River basin in the 1937 Colorado Big Thompson water project, had it not been for Carpenter's skill in persuading those states to accept 75,000,000 acre feet averaged over a running ten-year period as their fair share. When I finished this book in 1992, W.D. Farr suggested that I write a book about Delphus Carpenter. Delphus Carpenter was one of the first pilgrims born in the Union Colony. He became the water commissioner for the state of Colorado, among other titles which included being a state Senator. He was responsible for seven existing water compacts in the state of Colorado, including the Colorado River. W.D. Farr gives him credit for the Big Thompson water project that W.D. Farr got all the credit for doing. It was a matter of who was there first.'

My encouragement is that you name the downtown library after a man who received no recognition in this city whatsoever in any way, shape or form and has probably done as much for the state of Colorado as any individual, and I'm going to give you another reason. This is 2022. Does anyone know when the Colorado River compact was finally approved? 1922. One hundred years ago. It's still in existence, and as you know, Nebraska is now fighting the Platte River compact, which Delphus Carpenter wrote. There is no nobody more important to water in my estimation than Delphus Carpenter. You would go a long way naming your new library downtown after this man. Also, all of his papers happen to be in the Morgan Library at CSU right now. I won't say how good of a negotiator you would be to get those papers in this library and give him the due he is entitled to.

Public Comment by Dodie Ownes on behalf of REFORMA.

REFORMA actively seeks to promote the development of library selections to include Spanish language and Latino-oriented materials, the recruitment of more (inaudible) and bicultural professionals and support staff, the development of library services and programs that meet the needs of the Latino community, the establishment of a national organization support network that shares our goals, the education of the U.S. Latino population with regard to the availability and types of library services and (inaudible) efforts to preserve existing library resources and

centers. The HPLD Programming Policy Statement (inaudible).

REFORMA was recently made aware of some program policy revisions that the High Plains Library District adopted that are problematic and can be used to promote censorship.

These two statements from the policy follow:

- Program topics should reflect community interest and should not be intended to persuade participants to a particular point of view.
- While controversy is not avoided, the District does not present programs that are intentionally inflammatory or polarizing in the community.

These changes in programming have already been used to cancel programs that would have benefited traditionally underserved communities in public libraries. REFORMA's mission is to promote library services to the Latino and Spanish Speaking and this change in policy does the opposite. It is not unrealistic to think that a program that is offered only in Spanish can be deemed polarizing to the community.

REFORMA's Executive Committee urges the High Plains Library Board of Trustees and Executive Director to change the policy for one that embraces a radical empathy approach rather than one of neutrality. Our libraries should be spaces where we serve all of our communities, and our programming policies should reflect that. We hope that the Board of Trustees and the Executive Director make the right decision.

Sincerely,

The 2021/2022 Executive Committee

Public Comment by Maria Foster

'I'm an enthusiastic library patron. And I'm here today because I'm also concerned about the recent policy change in the language. I cannot speak to the intent that was behind the adoption of the policy, but I can see how it could be used in a way that I would find inappropriate for a library, for all community members. I won't repeat why we shouldn't have some of the programs, but I find it interesting that under the (inaudible) High Plains Library formal response, it says 'we offer programming that encourages crucial conversations and civil discourse'. I find it difficult to believe that crucial conversations don't skirt controversy. To me it's sort of hand-in-hand that crucial conversations will to some degree be controversial. Yet, we say in another place we're not going to skirt, we're going to attract controversy. To me, I'm finding those a real tug of war. How are we going to have crucial conversations but not say anything controversial? I think neutrality, while on its face may sound like a very reasonable objective, is kind of a slippery slope. And I can speak from my personal experience.' Maria then related it to male and female pelvis differences and finding a chart that reflects only a female pelvis. No, the charts must be neutral and show both genders or only the male skeleton. She closed by saying that she was really disturbed by the way this policy could potentially be used to silence people who already have a difficult time having their voices be heard.

2.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ACTION

2.1 Public Recommendation for LINC Dedication- Delphus Carpenter (Information) – Dr. Matthew Hорт, HPLD Executive Director

Dr. Hорт reported that, as Mr. Mitchell said in his public comment, he has requested that LINC include a dedication to honor Delphus Carpenter, who was instrumental in water rights, worked

closely with W.D. Farr, and is known as the Father of Interstate River Compacts. Chair Poncelew had suggested possibly recognizing a variety of people who were influential in water rights with a display in LINC's entryway.

This discussion was an introduction to the idea, and more information may come later.

For information only. No Board action required at this time.

2.2 St. Vrain Valley School District – High Plains Library District MOU (Action) – Dr. Matthew Horts, HPLD Executive Director

Elena Rosenfeld has been leading this project and working with the St. Vrain School District to create an MOU that would allow students in elementary and middle schools, whether they live in the HPLD District or not, to have the option to get a limited-use library card when matriculating into the school district. This would allow them access to the databases that the District provides. They could also get a full-use card by going into a library with parents. Elena has also been working with HPLD's Legal Counsel, and they recommend the current version of the MOU, which can be found in the Board Packet. Staff is waiting for additional comments on item 13a in Exhibit A, and the MOU will need to be approved by St. Vrain. Dr. Horts suggested that this may be a good model for the District to use to expand into other school districts throughout the entire area.

MOTION to approve and sign the MOU: Trustee Jana Caldwell

SECOND: Trustee Gerri Holton

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Unanimously approved, 5:0

2.3 COAHEC MURAL Mockup (Information) - Dr. Matthew Horts, HPLD Executive
Staff was approached by the Colorado Area Health Education Center (COAHEC), who works with Anschutz Medical School. They have funding to put a healthcare-themed mural that reflects the COVID Pandemic on the outside of LINC. Staff worked with Frank Garza, a local artist, and COAHEC to come up with a design that's approved by both AHEC and the LINC design team. It will depict the duality of being a student while being healthy and active, and will include healthy eating. It's been approved and will be installed on two sides of the building at the northwest corner of the building. The size is ¼ of each side of the building: approximately 30' high by 60' wide. It will be put up during construction, and the fences will have a QR Code for the public to give feedback. Additionally, this may be read into congressional record because Ken Buck's office has expressed interest in recognizing it. The mockup image and a photo of Garza working on the mural can be found in the Board Packet.

For information only. No Board action required.

3.0 DIRECTORS REPORT

3.1 District Updates – Dr. Matthew Horts, HPLD Executive Director

This year's Signature Author Event has been shifted to a virtual format because of COVID concerns. Staff worked with the booking agent to set up the virtual event for April 16th. Jason Reynolds will do two events: one for educators and students, and the other for the public. A benefit of the virtual event is that it will reach many more people than in-person would have. HPLD will stream it throughout the District and have watch parties at partnering locations, and people can also watch individually.

State Senate Bill 22-004, *Concerning Measures to Support Evidence-Based Literacy*, is a proposed bill designed to support parents and children through improved literacy through the science of reading. It had originally required a Librarian to complete evidence-based training based on science, and public libraries would have been asked to keep accurate lists of who had completed the training and have other materials and activities related to that concept. There have been several iterations and amendments to the bill at this point, and the most recent amendment has been to make the training optional for staff, rather than required. The bill, which has been changed quite a bit, has not formally been adopted yet. Opponents of the bill have asked library leaders to write letters to the sponsors of the bill, opposing the inclusion of public libraries. Dr. Hortt will be able to do it, so the Board should not have to do so.

Dr Hortt read the following letter that he recently received from an interested community member.

Dear Dr. Hortt and Board,

LINC is an impressive, innovative addition to the residents of the High Plains Library District. Congratulations.

This may be part of your long-range plan. With LINC, it would be the time to close Centennial Park Library. Closing this library would be difficult for some of the longtime residents and current library patrons. This would drive people to LINC other than going to see it once. It would become their new library home. Staff could transfer to LINC. This would help with the patron transition to another location. The distance is not as far as people will think.

The library has been remodeled/repurposed often over the years. The level issue and other long-term issues has been a creative endeavor for several architects and construction companies.

With everyone trying to get to the root helping people overcoming homelessness, Centennial Park Library would provide an effective location for the Navigation Center and cold weather shelter.

Thank you for listening to this concept, as it was written. This may be the plan already.

Sincerely,

An interested resident

- 3.2 Chair Report – Vice-Chair Mary Heberlee said she is proud of what we are doing. We have worked hard to expand services throughout our District and continue with that effort.

4.0 BOARD COMMENTS

- 4.1 Secretary/Treasurer Mary Roberts said the Board packets compliment Matt and Kim, and she appreciates the reports from throughout the District that are so significant and thorough and give a view of all that is going on regularly. She wanted to let staff know that the Board realizes their work and appreciates it. The information is read and is important for the Board as we make decisions.

4.2 Other Board Members

Trustee Jana Caldwell appreciates those who came to speak. It's an important part of our libraries' function.

Trustee Gerri Holton is excited about the Jason Reynolds program and how we will reach so many people. She's not sure how different it will look to not be in person, but she's excited to reach more people. She's interested in seeing how the District will get the books into the hands of kids before he comes. She's heard really good things about him and his work.

Trustee Joyce Smock was glad Mary Roberts brought up the reports in the Board packet, because there is so much going on in the District. She also thanked staff for the last three pages showing what happened in the last 30 days and the synopsis of the attendance. Good things are happening.

5.0 **ADJOURNMENT at 5:46pm**

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees,

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Trustee Joyce Smock

Second: Trustee Gerri Holton

Discussion: None

VOTE: Unanimously approved, 5:0

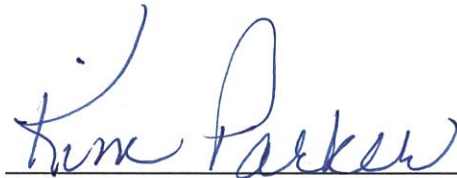
Upcoming meetings:

March 21, 2022, 5:00p.m. HPLD Board of Directors Meeting - Regular Session
Eaton Public Library, 132 Maple Avenue, Eaton, CO 80615



HPLD Board Secretary/Treasurer

Mary Roberts



Recording Secretary

Kim Parker

