

## **PRESENT**

Bruce Reynolds (presiding & secretary), Jason Robertson, Shay Shortt, Linda Gresky, Gary Wasdin (KCLS Library Director), Laura Boyes (KCLS Cluster Manager), Mary Comstock (Librarian Services Manager). Absent: James Park.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Gary Wasdin, the Director of KCLS, joins the meeting. He started at KCLS in January, and was previously director of the Omaha library system. He is trying to visit each of the 48 libraries and meet staff, meet with every Friends group and advisory board, and meet mayors, city councils, and school superintendents. Since KCLS is an independent agency, it tends to be left out of some conversations, and needs to work its way back in.

Gary is working on his first budget cycle here at KCLS, paying attention to visioning and strategic planning. The process is very much community-driven. Technology will be a focus in the next 10 years. KCLS is not yet a leader presenting technology, is a little behind many other library systems, and needs to work on that.

Jason asks about strengths and weaknesses of individual libraries in the system. Gary wants to find a balance between each library supporting the demographics and characteristics of its community, and uniformity of the KCLS system overall. For example, Redmond has a relatively high proportion of transactional business, and KCLS must create a physical space in Redmond that supports that.

Bruce asks about helping the library to be of better service to the community, and brings up battery recycling. Gary would be happy with a relaxation of the libraries' appearance standards. He wants libraries to be more of a community center than they sometimes currently are, describes some programs in Omaha, and might support food collection; battery, bulb, and eyeglasses recycling; or placement of ballot boxes at the library. Those types of services can be as valuable as providing books and computers.

Gary brings up homelessness in the Redmond. There are concerns and complaints from the general public about people sleeping in the library, suggesting that KCLS should ask them to leave. Gary feels that everyone who is not doing something illegal is using the library in an appropriate manner, even if they are not finding books, reading, or using the computers.

Jason asks about messaging. Gary bemoans the emphasis that downtown-based media gives to Seattle institutions at the expense of KCLS. KCLS executives are meeting with marketing specialists to address messaging, and will continue to work on building relationships and telling the story of KCLS. KCLS is currently working with some local newspapers and small public radio stations, but would like to do better with bigger media.

Gary describes new partnerships with local school districts. This year, Bellevue will automatically sign up all students for KCLS digital access. He hopes to roll out that program to all school districts starting in January, and school districts are enthusiastic.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Mary Comstock presents information about the first Community Discovery Days, a homeless and low-income resource fair, at the library earlier in the day. The idea arose out of the community discovery process. KCLS wants to be the information broker for the community, connecting resources to the people who need those resources. Thirteen agencies participated today, including Eastside Legal Assistance Program, Hopelink, Friends of Youth, Healthpoint, Sound Mental Health, Worksource, and WYCA. PFLAG will be there next month. There were 53 attendees, very successful. The program is financially supported by the Friends. Programs will be on the first Wednesday of the month for the next 7 months, at 4 PM in the afternoon.

Another success recently was a strategic partnership with Microsoft on Take Your Child to Work day. Microsoft contacted KCLS for help. The library presented Story Time non-stop, and the program was wildly popular. KCLS also brought e-readers and did e-reader and Zinio demos all day.

KCLS also did e-reader presentations at the senior center and So Bazaar. E-reader support outside the library is a service target, part of the new staffing model, getting librarians out into the community. KCLS always will have at least one librarian in the cluster during all open hours. The goal is to have a librarian at each building during all open hours, but that is not possible at Carnation and Duvall.

## CLUSTER MANAGER'S REPORT

### Circulation

- Circulation of physical items at Redmond is highest in the system. Downloads system-wide are at 266k this month, much larger than any library. Physical circulation is down 3% year-over-year system-wide, normal through-out the industry due to e-books. Laura promises that KCLS will soon start to break down download stats by community, as the board has frequently requested. Door count is 314k for 6 months and 47k for the month, no surprises.

### Programs

- Summer Learning has ended. Story Time is on break until mid-September, after an exhausting summer.
- Redmond Library programs over the summer include summer meal sites, Derby Days, and Big Truck day.

### Upcoming programs

- Chomp at Marymoor Park in September.
- 2016 KCLS-wide programs will probably be announced within the next three weeks.
- Make Series, Playing With Words, and a local Harry Potter book club with a movie (supported by Friends).

### Issues

- No serious security issues. There have been no trespassing incidents inside the library, and the library does not track trespassing issues outside the library. Patrons have always been allowed to sleep in the library.
- Jason would like to see KCLS coordinate better with the city, getting programs into the Redmond directory of events. Mary Comstock will work on this, now that re-clustering, cluster manager changes, and the new staffing model is settling down.
- Laura reports that KCLS is re-designing and will be updating the system website soon.
- People are allowed to sit outside the library, set up tables, interact with patrons, collect petitions, and distribute literature. That use is allowed and encouraged, as long as they are not disruptive, don't block access, and don't look like they are homeless. If they look like they are homeless, Redmond police will ask them to move.

## Community Discovery

- One current goal is to increase programming to tweens, both inside and outside the library. That may continue as one of the targets for 2016. It is challenging because KCLS has never focused on tweens before, but may start to system-wide. Redmond is ahead of the curve.
- Staff will review community demographics and Community Connect again, and might re-do some community leader interviews.

## Coordination with City about Shelters and Homelessness

- No news.

## Book Match

- Book Match was mentioned in the latest Director's Report. This new program is a way for staff to help patrons find their next book. The program is accessed online, but it is implemented by staff by hand. Soft rollout for several months. Bibliocommons currently supports patrons adding book reviews, adding lists, and signing up for other patrons' lists, but those features are not widely used.

## Library to Go

- The van gets used more in the summer. It was taken to various summer fairs, programs, parades, So Bazaar, and Chomp. It will be used less in the winter, because there are not so many community programs in the summer, and because it's easier to use during the long daylight hours of the summer.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Friends of the Redmond Library

### Redmond Library Blog

- The board suggested dropping the blog. We'll postpone a decision until James is present.

### Community Connections

- Jason reached out to Parks & Trails Committee (meets once per month) and the Planning Commission, which meets 3 times each month. He has emailed leaders and will look into how those boards might use the library or coordinate their activities with the library.
- Shay points out the interest the New Yorker earthquake article generated, and offers to look into the city's emergency preparedness programs and classes. There may be a way those programs can use or connect with the library. The library is already an official emergency shelter.

### Center for Nonprofit s

## NEW BUSINESS

- Shay has accepted a position working at the Bellevue Library, part time. She will contact the city of Redmond for Conflicts of Interest rules and guidelines. She will be happy to continue serving on this advisory board, and the board would like to see her continue, if it is cleared by the city.

## ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM