Board of Directors  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, April 2, 2016, 9.30a  
Hood River Library Reading Room  
502 State St, Hood River  
Suzanne VanOrman, President

Present: Rachael Fox (staff), Buzzy Nielsen (staff), Jean Sheppard, Sara Snyder, Suzanne VanOrman, several members of the public

I. Additions/deletions from the agenda (ACTION)  

The meeting was called to order at 9.35a, after which the floor was turned over to library consultant Penny Hummel to lead a strategic planning visioning retreat.

II. New business

i. Community visioning session for strategic plan

Nielsen welcomed the approximately twenty people attending the retreat. Introductions were made. Hummel explained the process of the meeting itself and the overall strategic planning process. Following that, the retreat followed the attached agenda.

- Nielsen presented on the current status of the library district including programs, services, usage statistics, and future projects.
- Hummel gave an overview of library trends nationally, including focuses on making libraries more like community centers, encouraging creative activities for all ages in the library, and reaching out to people in innovative fashions.
- The participants broke up into small groups to discuss what the community’s most pressing needs are and which of those needs the library might address. The groups reported back to the entire group.
- Participants recessed briefly for lunch at 12.25p.
- The entire group discussed their vision for the District, including how the library can address identified needs, make a positive impact on local quality of life, and where the library should focus its resources in the next five years. The five areas were as follows:
  - Create a stable and permanent presence in Odell.
  - Expand services to tweens, teens, and seniors.
  - Expand outreach activities
  - Promote lifelong learning and creative activities in the libraries.
  - Increase library awareness within the County.
- They then discussed goals and strategies to help address the identified areas.
- Penny summed up the meeting by discussing next steps and thanking everyone for participating.

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2.45p.
Community Visioning and Strategic Planning Retreat

Agenda
Hood River Library (502 State Street, Hood River OR)
Saturday, April 2, 2016, 9:30 am – 3 pm

9:00  Coffee and refreshments
9:30  Welcome (Buzzy Nielsen)
9:35  Introductions
10:00 Retreat overview and outcomes  (Penny Hummel, library consultant)
10:15 The Hood River County Library District (Buzzy Nielsen)
   • Current programs and services
   • Benchmarking
   • Opportunities and aspirations for the future (+ Q & A)
11:15 Input from community interviews and focus groups
11:45 National library service trends (Penny Hummel)
Identifying Community Needs:  Small Groups
   • What are our community’s most pressing needs?
   • Which of these needs might the library help address?
12:15 Reports from small groups
12:30 LUNCH
1:15 Vision for the Hood River County Library District:  Small Groups
   • How can the library address identified community needs and make a positive contribution to local quality of life?
   • Where should the library focus its resources in the next 3 – 5 years?
1:45 Reports from small groups
2:00 Developing Goals and Strategies:  Small Groups
   • Within the identified focus areas, what should the library’s goals be in the next five years?
   • What strategies will help reach these goals?
   • Which community organizations the library should partner with to achieve these goals?
2:30 Final reports from small groups
2:45 Next steps (Penny Hummel)
3:00 Adjourn (Buzzy Nielsen)