

**Board of Directors**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
 February 20, 2024, 7:00pm  
 Library Meeting Room and Zoom  
 502 State St, Hood River

**Library Board:**

*Present: Board President: Brian Hackett, Board Vice-President: Karen Bureker, Board members: Megan Janik and Sara Marsden.*

The Hood River County Library District will hold this meeting by offering a hybrid format. Participants can attend in-person or on Zoom Conferencing. Please use the following phone number or video link:

1-253-215-8782, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89745812618?pwd=NFBFT0xUVjF5N0dDVGNiZTVsNDQ2dz09>, Meeting ID: 897 4581 2618

	<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>I.</b>	<b>Call to Order</b> Board President Brian Hackett called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.		Brian Hackett
<b>II.</b>	<b>Approval of the agenda (additions/corrections/deletions)</b> Marsden made a motion to approve the agenda. Sheppard seconded. The motion carried unanimously.	<b>Motion</b>	Brian Hackett
<b>III.</b>	<b>Approval of the consent agenda</b> Bureker moved to accept the consent agenda, encompassing the minutes of the January 16, 2024 regular board meeting. Marsden provided the second. The motion passed with unanimous approval.	<b>Motion</b>	Brian Hackett
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Actual or potential conflicts of interest</b> None stated		Brian Hackett
<b>V.</b>	<b>Public comment (3 minutes each)</b> None stated		Brian Hackett
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Urban Renewal Agency Governing Board Membership</b> Will Norris from the City of Hood River Urban Renewal Agency visited the library board meeting to discuss the Urban Renewal Agency Governing Board Membership. He stated that the		Will Norris

Urban Renewal agency was reevaluating its governance structure and bylaws, which had last been done in 2012. The agency currently consists of the entire City Council and two members of the Port Commission, primarily due to the activity on the waterfront and downtown area. Norris is visiting taxing districts with the intent to gauge interest in being involved in the business decisions of the taxing districts. They are currently in a fact-finding and listening stage.

Hackett asked about the involvement of the Port on the agency board since they have a small impact on their budget for the Westside project and the Library District has a larger impact. Norris stated that the Port has held positions on the agency board since 1983. Hackett clarified that this was for the agency board and not the Westside District. Norris confirmed that was correct. The seats for the Port were because the urban renewal district was downtown.

Norris asked about the interest in having a permanent seat on the governing board. Hackett stated there was inequity on the board due to the number of positions of city council members. Norris explained that a permanent seat would have equal weight to every seat on the board.

Bureker inquired why city council members each have a position on the agency board because it seems redundant. Norris explained that this eliminates redundancy to have all city council members so they don't have to vote twice because they are represented on the agency board. Bureker expressed it seems highly weighted with all the city council members on the board. Norris explained the Urban Renewal Agency is a component entity of the city. It is a designated economic development arm and has been tasked with urban renewal financing with its own governing board but as a component of the city. 75% of urban renewal agencies just use their city councils as their board and 25% add on additional representation. There is one agency board in the state without any city council representation on the board. Hackett expressed it seems heavily weighted against other voices and questioned the Library District involvement since the library board or citizens were not asked for their involvement.

Bureker asked what is the benefit of other taxing districts being involved. Norris explained taxing increment financing works by segregation of tax growth in certain geographic areas from all other taxing districts. Serving on the agency board provides a stake in funding source. There is not more decision power but an equal amount to each vote on the governing board. The

	<p>following options are potentially available for involvement: seat on the Agency Board, join the monthly meetings, or receive presentations urban renewal district activity. Hackett asked if there was a requirement to brief the library board on spending. Norris stated annually they are required by state law to release an annual financial report to districts in January.</p> <p>Marsden stated she had no interest in a seat but would like updates more than once per year.</p> <p>Bureker stated she thinks the funds are frozen just in the geographic area of the urban renewal district. Norris confirmed yes. Norris stated the city oversees the downtown, waterfront, heights, and westside districts.</p> <p>Hackett and Janick expressed concern that the pattern was the library did not receive a benefit because when one urban renewal district ends another begins. Hackett stated it was abusive and wrong. Hackett expressed he was not interested in joining the agency board.</p> <p>Norris recognized Special Districts Association of Oregon does lobby against urban renewal. Norris made note of the first downtown district and the need for infrastructure improvements for stormwater and electrical poles and the creation of new parks. Tax value increases 5 or 6 fold and has been released back in the coffers for the Library District. In Westside, there have been only ten houses built in the last ten years and they need new infrastructure. Hackett recognized the benefits but also objected to funds being used from the library district and other special districts.</p> <p>Bureker asked if the Westside urban renewal district would last 25 years. Norris stated the max indebtedness was 146.7 million dollars. This is the amount of time it will take to generate that amount of tax revenue to pay off the borrowing of that amount. It doesn't have a designated time limit. Projections are based off that time limit but it could be plus or minus. The waterfront closed earlier than expected.</p> <p>Norris aksed if the Library District is interested in involvement with Urban Renewal Agency Board. Bureker agreed with Sarah with presentations twice per year.</p>		
<p><b>VII. Presentation: Bookmobile and Outreach</b></p>	<p>During the recent board meeting, Jasmin Martinez, the Bookmobile Specialist, and Yelitza Vargas-Boots, the Bilingual Outreach Specialist, conducted a presentation on Bookmobile and Outreach Services. Martinez shared insights from her extensive community work experience, highlighting how her</p>		<p>Jasmin Martinez and Yelitza Vargas-Boots</p>

	<p>background aligns perfectly with her current role. She elaborated on the criteria for selecting stops, emphasizing factors such as population density, distance from the physical library location, proximity to school bus stops, and previously established stops. The discussion centered around various stops, with a particular focus on low-income neighborhoods.</p> <p>Martinez also provided an overview of the library's participation in outreach events and parades, presenting relevant statistics. Vargas-Boots then discussed the versatile use of the bookmobile for outreach events in the community, as well as its role in school visits. She mentioned the upcoming Dia de los Ninos event, where the library will partner with One Community Health to host the event at their site. Vargas-Boots added that over 40 other community partners are expected to attend, with an estimated turnout of over 1,000 people.</p> <p>Following the presentation, the Library Board members were given a guided tour of the Bookmobile to further acquaint themselves with its operations and capabilities.</p>		
<b>VIII. Reports</b>			
	<p><b>i. Friends update</b> There was nothing to add to the written report.</p>		Rachael Fox
	<p><b>ii. Foundation update</b> There was nothing to add to the written report.</p>		Rachael Fox
	<p><b>iii. January Financial Statements</b> The financial statements for January 2023 had not been released yet when the board packet was distributed.</p>		Rachael Fox
	<p><b>iv. Director's report</b> Hackett proposed obtaining a charging locker for Cascade Locks and Parkdale. Fox stated she would look into the suggestion, considering the compact size of the locations and the visibility of the charging areas to patrons. Nevertheless, Fox expressed assurance in securing funding if needed. Janick suggested that an outdoor charging locker at Cascade Locks could be beneficial for hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail.</p>		Rachael Fox
<b>VIII. Old Business</b>			
<b>IX. New Business</b>			
	<p><b>i. Budget calendar and Budget Officer Approval (ACTION)</b> Bureker proposed appointing Library Director Rachael Fox as</p>	<b>Motion</b>	Rachael Fox

	the budget officer and approving the budget calendar. Janik supported the motion with a second. The motion was unanimously passed.		
<b>IX.</b>	<b>Announcements</b>		
	<p><b>i. Comments from board members</b></p> <p>Bureker provided an update on her recent participation in the Special District Association of Oregon conference. She highlighted that there will be mandatory training from the ethics commission for all current board members and individuals who file for a board position. Additionally, Bureker mentioned two discussions held at the SDAO. Firstly, Josephine County Library District had a patron request to be exempted from paying for library services on their taxes. Secondly, there was a discussion on recreation law, which addressed the liability concerns associated with patrons walking on paths situated on special district lands.</p>		All
	<p><b>ii. Requests/Comments from Library Director</b></p> <p>None</p>		Rachael Fox
<b>X.</b>	<p><b>Agenda items for next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: Our board meeting has been moved to Monday, March 18, 7pm</li> <li>• Code of Conduct and Use Restriction policy review</li> <li>• Budget Committee approval</li> <li>• Garden's maintenance bids</li> <li>• Attorney contract renewal</li> <li>• Library Director Evaluation timeline</li> </ul>		Brian Hackett
<b>XI.</b>	<p><b>Adjournment regular meeting</b></p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.</p>		Brian Hackett

Other matters may be discussed as deemed appropriate by the Board. If necessary, Executive Session may be held in accordance with the following. Bolded topics are scheduled for the current meeting's executive session.

ORS 192.660 (1) (d) Labor Negotiations

ORS 192.660 (1) (e) Property

ORS 192.660 (1) (h) Legal Rights

ORS 192.660 (1) (i) Personnel

The Board of Directors meets on the 3rd Tuesday each month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the Jeanne Marie Gaulke Memorial Meeting Room at 502 State Street, Hood River, Oregon. Sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired is available if at least 48 hours notice is given.