

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Neill Public Library Board Date: October 13, 2021

Observer Reporting: Francy Pavlas Bose Length of Meeting: 2 hours

Members Present/Absent: Mary Jane Neill; Kris Boreen; Brandon Wolking; Jan Hill; and Ann Parks-
City Council Representative

Others Present (i.e., media, public): Joanna Bailey—Library Director; Lori C. Lewis—Adm. Assist.

Meeting Content:

Meeting open at 3 pm; Minutes; vouchers for Aug. Sept. Oct. and Salary warrants all approved.

Anne Parks reported that a full-time position of “Financial person” added to city council

Director’s Report **Two new positions:** Racheal Ritter—Youth Services; Ashley Buyer—Dept. Circulation (new position). Both people move from other positions in Library, so now their positions are being advertised.

Director spoke of her Degree work at UW. She is fulfilling her degree project at Neill Library addressing “**Barriers at Circulation Desk**”. Work in progress looking at Barriers; Goals; Report to Staff in November with things to address after data collected. (*Barriers: Physical Barriers; Auditory; and Backup; Goals: Map process to adjust; reduce clutter etc.. Training standardized. Note things that can’t change*)

Director’s report generally: 71 new accounts; checkouts and visits decreased in August; computer use increasing and printing going down some. Many projects being done, gathering data; trials and input.

Board Vacancy: Kris Boreen term completing. Committee formed; Press release; applications with November decision for new member. Brandon and Jan committee positions. First review November 1st; second screening if needed.

Library Fines—further discussion; board wants to remove library barriers for equal access. Still looking at alternate ways to reduce barriers. Discussion about Auto-renew which reduced 75% of late fines where used in other libraries. Need more info. before actual option. Offer options for notification of books due: Text; email; mail.

Book Club: Titles available on line. FYI: Downloadable Books

Construction of added Office space for \$18,000—council?

Joanna introduced a NEW Program she has been considering called: **Human Library** which provides a “check-out” of a Human Being’s story. This is a program from Copenhagen. Learn more by going to humanbeing.org or <https://www.facebook.com/humanlibraryorg/> I have pasted one comment from the website called

DIALOGUE We meet our goals by creating a special dialogue room, where taboo topics can be discussed openly and without condemnation. A place where people who would otherwise never talk find room for conversation. Joanna pointed out that all the “books” would be found in the Pullman community. People willing to share. Still looking into it and the ground rules; training; volunteer recruitment etc... Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm

Additional comments/opinions:

Could not really understand the added City Council position, but it is not yet filled. Being advertised.

The Human Library program from Copenhagen sounds fantastic.