

## League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: \_\_\_Neill Public Library\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_08/16/23

Observer Reporting: \_\_\_Alice Schroeder\_\_\_ Length of Meeting: \_\_\_2 hours\_

Board Members Present: \_\_\_ Kate Watts, Keith Petersen, Jan Hill, Mary Jane Neill

Board Members Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

Others Present (e.g., staff, other agency representatives, media, public) : \_\_\_Ann Parks, City Council rep., Dan Owens, Lori Lewis, Min, Adult Services manager, Rosemary, Adult Services Technician, Julie Tarland, Friends of NPL\_\_\_\_\_

### ***Business Pertaining to League Positions or Topics of Interest:***

*Adult programs* have been well used. Book buying policy was explained. NLP sees itself as a popular materials library. There is a written policy. Books on CD's have become less popular but DVD's remain heavily checked out. It is no longer possible to get many TV series on DVD's.

*Friends of NLP* are redoing the book sale area. They are also looking for ways to pay for books on line as many people do not carry cash. A list of good books and magazines to donate is on the FNPL website.

*Director's report:* Finances are about right for this time of year. Use is mostly up over last year although circulation for Youth materials is flat. Attendance at programs is way up. Staffing policy requiring 3 employee's to be present during open hours and two for special events in closed hours was presented and approved by the Trustees. A patron survey will be conducted in October. Two trustee's will be on the analysis committee. The director has applied to be on the committee for the State Library Capitol Building Fund. There is a state wide committee examining the high cost and short duration (2 years) of e-books. They may propose legislation. LWV Pullman needs to watch for this. The Whitman County Libraries director and Dan Owens along with another small library director are considering, on their own time, how to respond to the attempt to close the Dayton library over the books it has.

*Library Developments:* All 10 full time positions are now filled. There is a need for more part time staff. The library will have tables at the Lentil Festival and the Farmer's market.

*Budget:* City budget review is coming up.

*New Business:* Next year the library will be looking at collection development policies. It is not clear in State or City code if the Trustees of a City Library are an advisory or governing board. It should be clear that they are a governing board and responsible for collections. New legislation will be required. LWV Pullman has a strong position that collections should serve the many constituents of the library. LWV Pullman should watch for this.

**Process & Protocol:** Observations about participants and procedures during the meeting. e.g., Did the members appear to have done their "homework"? Were members courteous to each other and the public? Was access to materials for agenda items available to you?

The board is very open and supportive of the Library. All materials are provided to observers.