

## PRESENT

Kristine Anderson, Kara Simon, Murthy Srinivas, Paul Rojas, and KCLS Cascade Regional Manager Michele Drodahl

## CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM with four library board members present, via Teams

## REGIONAL MANAGER REPORT

Michele Drodahl has been serving as the Cascade Regional Manager, overseeing Redmond, for about a month. She reports that Redmond has been very busy with Curbside service. They pull hundreds of books for patrons each day, and had one day, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, where they filled 529 appointments for book pickups. Michele said that Curbside service takes up more staff time compared to their duties prior to the pandemic. It is still unknown when the building will be open to patrons. Once KCLS is able to allow some patrons back into buildings, the system will start with smaller and less busy libraries at first. Redmond, despite having 30,000 square feet compared to Bellevue's 85,000 square feet, is the busiest library in the system.

The KCLS Economics Empowerment Committee, which included Redmond Adult Services Librarian Dan Shaffer, won a national award from the Urban Library Council for programming that helps people with financial resources.

Michele will be looking at candidates to replace the current Operations Manager at Redmond, who is retiring in January. Due to the budget shortfall, since KCLS didn't get a levy lid lift on the ballot this past year as originally planned, other positions that become open won't be filled for a while. Adult Services Librarian Dan Shaffer has already retired, and another Adult Services Librarian will be retiring in February. It's possible that these positions, and others that open up, may be filled through lateral moves from within the system, but a hiring freeze is in place for the foreseeable future. The vacancies will remain open until they are able to fill them.

Adult services is a lifeline for folks who are immune-compromised and less able to get out. Michele pointed out that there is an adult services librarian in the Cascade region. Also, all programming is currently online. Librarians in the system are being broken up into groupings (adult, teen, children) and providing programming throughout the system - available on Zoom throughout the county and accessible from anywhere. Once patrons are able to visit the building with no capacity restrictions, KCLS will look at in-building programs and local programming.

Murthy asked about searching for events. People are used to searching for events by location (Redmond), which is how the search is organized on the KCLS website. Will patrons be able to find the programming they need? Michele says the web search should be updated. It is her understanding that non-place-based listings should be included in the search. Michele will check with Mary Comstock about this.

There is a Redmond-based Book Discussion Group, currently reading a book by Zadie Smith, which will meet later this month. Those interested register online in advance and are emailed a Zoom link.

The library is coordinating with the city to put bookmarks in with free lunches that the city is handing out for seniors. Currently the bookmarks feature "10 to Try," with suggestions about topics and genres of books to read.

Kara asked about fines, and whether the cancellation of fines has been extended? Michele indicated that fines are being cancelled through March.

Dropoff at Redmond – Tuesday at 1pm through Saturday at 5pm book drop is available. Not open over the weekend. Volume too high. Weeknights basically open all night. Although the library isn't advertising this, once staff has left the building for the day, the manual book drop (to the left of the entrance) has been opened up for drop-offs.

## LIBRARY BOARD

There still is an open position on the board. The city has received a few applications. Kris will send out applications and resumes for board members to look over. One position currently open, and it is likely that Kris will step away from the board in March when her term is up, leaving a second position open.

Kris asked whether the board should return to the previous schedule, where meetings were held every other month on the first Wednesday. Murthy suggested keeping meetings on the calendar for every month as a placeholder, with the possibility of canceling if there's not much to discuss on agenda.

Kara noticed a new security person today and asked Michele about that. Michele indicated that security is handled through an outside company, and the former security person was moved up to a supervisor position in that company. Michele herself is in Redmond 3 days a week and has not met the new security person yet. Regarding security, everything has been quiet - no upset patrons, no break-in attempts.

## ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Next meeting on Wednesday, February 3rd, at 5:30pm