PRESENT
Kristine Anderson, Kara Simon, Minerva Butler, Library Regional Manager Denise Bugallo, KCLS Director Lisa Rosenblum, and Ernie Collette

CALL TO ORDER
Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM with three library board members present.

KCLS DIRECTOR LISA ROSENBLUM
KCLS Director Lisa Rosenblum spoke about some of the changes she’s made since joining KCLS, and also presented information from the recent Library Advisory Board Forum on the Political and Financial Environment of KCLS.

Asked what she saw as being unique about the Redmond Library, Rosenblum said that Redmond stands out because it has the highest digital circulation in the system, because of the Community Court program, and for its busy location in an urban/suburban area.

Since becoming the KCLS Director about 18 months ago, Rosenblum has made operational changes to make the system more efficient. She initiated an audit and found areas where cuts could be made so that $3 million could go toward capital investments for building maintenance.

Rosenblum brought booklets entitled “Political and Financial Environment of KCLS” that were distributed at the recent Library Advisory Board Forum. They provide an overview of the library system, its governance and funding, and the cities in which it operates. In addition to the KCLS Board of Trustees and the King County Council, in her role as Director Rosenblum is also in contact with state and federal congressional representatives and senators.

KCLS receives the vast majority of its funding from property taxes. About 1% of its funding comes from fines and fees. The KCLS Foundation provides another .5% that goes directly to special programming rather than operations.

While the valuation of property in the area has risen a great deal over the past several years, the KCLS levy rate has been capped to go up by 1%/year. At the same time, labor and healthcare costs have gone up higher than that rate. The largest expense for KCLS is library operations, including salaries and benefits for staff. Because of increasing costs and the cap on its revenue through property taxes, KCLS will be running at a planned deficit.

The current levy was passed in 2010. Looking to the future with a goal of stable funding, KCLS will be asking for a levy lid lift at some point. If KCLS isn’t able to increase revenue, then they will need to look at areas where cuts can be made.

Rosenblum spoke to the board about being advocates for the library in the community.
REGIONAL MANAGER REPORT

- Programming Highlights:
  - Dia Celebration: Around the World Storytime on May 3rd. There will be 5 story time presenters of stories in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Russian and Spanish.
  - On May 4th there will be a Poetry Coffeehouse for All Ages, an open mic and competition. Kara mentioned that she will be there as one of the judges.
  - On May 14th, Introduction to KCLS Databases, which is a free online research resource, is also being offered.

- Denise spoke about evaluating the Redmond library for its use of space and how to optimize it. She is considering whether to reduce the large reference section, which doesn’t see as much use as it once did, to a smaller core collection. She also spoke the staffing hours the Redmond Ridge location places on the Redmond staff, transporting and sorting books for holds and bringing books back.

- Denise put together a “welcome packet” of useful information for incoming library board members. The welcome packet includes basic information on KCLS, their mission and vision, information on library administration, a description of the role a library advisory can play, patron code of conduct, etc.

- In response to the board’s request for more frequent meetings, Denise has reserved a conference room for the Library Advisory Board meetings on a monthly basis beginning in September. She also will send out a link to the board to view the video which RTAB members made.

LIBRARY BOARD ITEMS

- Kris interviewed two candidates for the open position today, along with Maxine Whattam, Redmond’s Chief Operating Officer. There is a third candidate who for scheduling reasons will be interviewed on May 10th. Maxine Whattam mentioned being interested in helping the library board find ways to be more coordinated with other active groups in the city.

- The board discussed ideas for promoting the library in the community.
  - Have a booth at the Farmer’s Market again. Kris contacted the market about getting a booth earlier in the summer, but was told nothing was available until mid-August. The board decided to look into having a booth for Banned Books Week again, which is near the end of September.
  - The board discussed making a short video about the Redmond Library that could be shown to the city council during the public comment period, which would mean it would need to be under 4 minutes long. It was decided to pursue that later in the year, for showing to the city council early next year. Although the City Council hasn’t asked for a report from the board in the past couple of years, it is possible that a board member might go to the public comment period sooner to provide an update on library programming, and perhaps getting a longer time scheduled for a report early next year.
  - Kris is volunteering with the Friends of the Library and shared some of the books FOL is considering for One Book Redmond. The Friends members are reading the books to help determine which one to choose.

ADJOURNMENT
Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.