



Inspire together & expand horizons

**Regular Board Meeting minutes
September 26, 2020 – 9:30-noon Pacific**

Location: via Zoom

Trustees: Lynda Anderson-Thibault (Midway), Kevin Atherton (Elkford), Joanne Beetstra (Trail), Connie Beranek (Sparwood), Wendy Hunt (Alternate - Castlegar), Cathie Kearns (Kimberley), Mary Kierans (Grand Forks), Jeannette Le Blanc (Penticton), Sheila Leman (Radium), Frank Longo (Ferne), Daneve McAffer (Invermere), Janet Pierce (Salmo), Laurie Riehl (Creston), Mindy Smith (Beaver Valley), Abigail Steele (Rossland), Gail Wakulich (Cranbrook), Ellen Watters (Kaslo)

Absent: Shori Smith (Nakusp), Michelle Sylvest (Nelson), Shawn Whitelegg (Greenwood)

Guests: Karla Germaine (Ferne), Anne Heard (Kaslo), Jan Kohlhauser (Midway)

KLF Staff: Melanie Reaveley, Executive Director

Library Directors: Heather Buzzell (Penticton), Emma Dressler (Ferne), Cari Lynn Gawletz (Grand Forks), Samantha Murphy (Trail), Marie Oynett (Beaver Valley), Kimberly Partanen (Castlegar), Beverley Rintoul (Rossland), Anne Rogers (Invermere), Jacqueline Wager (Radium)

Call to Order 9:06am

- 1 & 2. Adoption of agenda and acceptance of consent agenda items moved by Abigail Steele, seconded by Kevin Atherton. Carried.
3. Cari Gawletz read the LDAG Chair report.
4. Janet Pierce and Melanie Reaveley responded to questions about the draft budget. Joanne Beetstra moved and Abigail Steele seconded the approval of the 2021 budget. Carried.
5. Mindy Smith responded to questions about policy revisions. Janet Pierce moved and Ellen Watters seconded the approval of all policies. Carried.

6. After some discussion, the Governance Manual updates were moved by Ellen Watters and seconded by Kevin Atherton. Carried.

7. Strategic plan review facilitated by KLF Chair, Daneve McAffer

Usually, strategic planning asks:

- where we are now?
- where do we want to be? and
- how do we get there?

A review/analysis of an active strategic plan asks:

- What strengths do we have, and do we want?
- What are challenges (weaknesses) that we have and that we don't want?
- What opportunities do we want and don't have?
- What are roadblocks (threats) that don't we have, and don't want?

Meeting participants were divided into four breakout rooms to consider and brainstorm different aspects of the KLF strategic plan. A summary of the different thoughts are summarized below.

Strengths

- Support for directors within the KLF
- Financial benefit includes databases, ProD, etc.
- Advocating and communication
- Resource sharing
- Expertise
- Connection to other public libraries, Libraries branch and province
- Programming
- Board training
- Leveraging of purchasing power
- Funding
- Director & full time
- Dealing with COVID
- Ability to manage risks as the KLF
- Dealing with change
- Directors meetings
- Collaboration with Directors with KLF
- Past experiences with the COVID
- Regular communication back to our own boards
- A challenge that is also a strength is the size and geography of our federation. Could benefit us with advocating for increased funding due to lack of consistent wifi and government agencies in our small communities. And our libraries provide these services and need more financial support.

Challenges

COVID

- We can't have in-person meetings safely
- PPE and other COVID "stuff" is difficult to get in small towns
 - o And we can't afford it anyway

Challenges, con't.

- Limiting patron time in libraries to be safe is not conducive to our "community living room" goals
- Many libraries have had to reduce hours
- Cannot safely bring back volunteers
- Patrons may get used to not using their public library much if at all
- Poor internet in rural areas means people can't access online programming
- Online programming is a default aimed at people who can afford and have access to high speed internet and devices
- Staffing during COVID is expensive and complicated
- Libraries and federations may get lost in the COVID budget shuffle as governments try to recover

Funding

- Provincial funding frozen, which means that in real life it is a cut as we face inflation
- Municipal/regional funding precarious and unstable (even before COVID)
- KLF not part of Technology grant/digital Initiatives funding
- Digital initiatives grant is not what we asked for - we need funding for operations!
- The size and geography of our federation could benefit us with advocating for increased funding due to lack of consistent wifi and government agencies in our small communities. And our libraries provide these services and need more financial support (also a strength)

Opportunities

- Communication, how member libraries do it
- COVID has increased how frequently and the type of help offered to patrons
- The role of technology to facilitate communication – it levels the playing field
- Mentoring between new members and Directors through COVID
- KLF meeting in libraries
- Libraries to redefine themselves as an essential service (computer access and printing, knowing people rely on library services, offer these services despite potential risk). KLF to help them do this.
- Different delivery of services (piloting and trying new things, being forced to try, sharing information beyond the usual levels of collaboration)
- Supporting students who use distance education
- Evaluating how we offer services differently
- The KLF being more connected to other Federations, Libraries Branch, BC Libraries Coop
- Re-think and try new things
- KLF to advocate for funding for federations in light of being left out of the technology grant/digital initiatives grant project with the province
- Given greater ability of many libraries to deliver/enhance online services
- Opportunity to promote library's role as more than books

Roadblocks

- Libraries may need to go into lock down again, how do we develop our resources collectively
- Especially with interlibrary loans (expense) (don't want to lose this service)

Roadblocks, con't.

- We want a way for our libraries to continue to serve patrons
- What are our next steps?
- Absence of provincial direction about libraries place and absence/closure of libraries
- Don't know what to ask for as we don't know the financial situation of the province
- We don't have the numbers to support library ask for funds
- Have inadequate advocacy
- Don't want to limit our services
- Increased demand for certain services
- Don't have a loss of services and don't want to lose them
- Don't want to lose funding and support services
- Don't have sophisticated enough tech and don't want to lose what we do have
- Space issues and programming issues came up as challenges
- Reputation of KLF not being useful
- Difficulty finding KLF appointees from member boards

Daneve thanked everyone for participating and explained that the Executive Committee would be incorporating the ideas from today in an evaluation of the strategic plan.

8. Mindy Smith moved and Daneve McAffer seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 11:35am.