

The purpose of the Kootenay Library Federation is to facilitate collaboration between member libraries, in order to foster and promote equitable and outstanding library services.

*Inspire together & expand horizons*

## LDAG Meeting Minutes

**Location:** Zoom

**Time:** Friday September 24, 2021  
9:30 – 11:30am Pacific

**KLF Library Director Attendees:** Jim Bertoia (Sparwood), Stacey Boden (Rossland), Ursula Brigl (Cranbrook), Taylor Caron (Salmo), Emma Dressler (Fernie), Alex Faucher (Elkford), Saara Itkonen (Creston), Eva Kelemen (Kaslo), Claire Paradis (Nakusp), Kim Partanen (Castlegar), Marie Oynett (Beaver Valley), Anne Rogers (Invermere), Leslie Smith (Greenwood), Sasha Tauzer (Midway), Karin von Wittgenstein (Kimberley), Jacquie Kozack (Radium)

**KLF Staff:** Melanie Reaveley

**Guests:** Mari Martin (Director, Public Libraries Branch), Andrea Tubbs (Swansea Communications – CBT marketing consultant)

**Regrets:** Heather Buzzell (Penticton), Cari Lynn Gawletz (Grand Forks), Samantha Murphy (Trail), Tracey Therrien (Nelson)

Meeting was called to order at 9:30am.

1. Territorial acknowledgement – Saara
2. Mari Martin, Public Libraries Branch
  - Reflecting on the changes in libraries.
  - Discussion about libraries being exempt from asking to view vaccine passports. Is it ok for libraries to ask for the passport? This could be a question for the KLF lawyer.
    - o Consider public health orders. Orders from local health authorities have more authority than province of BC orders.
      - KLF lawyer could be asked to comment on the orders.
    - o Might this situation be evaluated on a case-by-case basis due to human rights issues?
    - o The intent of the vaccine passport was to encourage vaccine uptake.

- Libraries are outside the passport requirement because government recognized that citizens need library services.
- Libraries can choose to offer services aimed at the individual rather than the group. (as in no group programs)
- October Library Month
  - October is Library Month. Nationally, the Canadian Library Federation of Library Associations is promoting Canadian Library Month. For more information and a link to promotional materials: <https://cfla-fcab.ca/en/programs/cdn-library-month/>
  - In BC, the focus of Library Month will be to recognize and celebrate the work of libraries. The BC Proclamation is available at: <https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/proclamations/proclamations/LibraryMonthandDay2021>
  - Mari is focusing on appreciating library staff and the work everyone has done during COVID.
  - Public Libraries Branch will retweet any tweets libraries make about Library Month.
  - Remember to include Minister Osborne in your tweets @Josie\_Osborne
  - \*\* see email sent from Mari Sept 28/21 for more information.
- Mari mentioned the fact that Kootenay Boundary Regional District members met with Minister Josie Osborne at UBCM.

### 3. Andrea Tubbs, Swansea Communications

- Andrea described the marketing toolkit she wants to create for member libraries.
- Your input in the survey will help the toolkit be what you truly need.
- Survey closes Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BJJHWX2>
- A request was made to Andrea for any templates to include Canadian software versions (not Cava for example).
- A request for inclusion in the marketing toolkit was for fundraising templates and the best month to focus on this.
- Her work will wrap up by the end of October.
- Springboard idea from the Kootenay Teen Newspaper is an online library newsletter with a programming calendar. Some libraries in the Kootenays are close enough that patrons would participate online or in-person in other communities.

### 4. LDAG Meeting

#### a. Round Table

##### **Leslie (Greenwood)**

- Seeing steady patron usage.
- Patrons are asking for children's programs.
- Volunteers are not back yet.
- Going well on a day-to-day basis.

##### **Anne (Invermere)**

- It is like hopping on ice-flows, everything is shifting, she and staff keep jumping along.
- Outdoor storytime is going well.

##### **Kim (Castlegar)**

- Fall programs begin next week.
- Outdoor storytime is offered.

- Grab & go bags for craft activities are being offered for wee ones up to teens.
- Referring patrons to the Read Local and Kootenay Teen Online book clubs (KLF wide).
- Some patrons are settling in the library space, tutoring and newspaper reading.
- Noticing a quiet-rush-quiet-rush pattern.
- No volunteers are back yet, anticipating their return in October.
- Offering limited computer access for patrons.
- They are at their usual open hours but the schedule is slightly altered.

#### **Sasha (Midway)**

- With the Library Assistant and Summer youth worker, they are managing as a group.
- The focus is to bring people into the library.
- Some virtual programming is being offered. Offered an adult summer reading club and this brought new patrons in. Also promoting the KLF book clubs.
- A Creator Group is being offered online, as well as a weekly online Lego club this fall.
- Through the technology grant and the strategic hardware grant, the next 6 months will see improvements with connectivity for Midway.

#### **Stacey (Rossland)**

- They are celebrating their great and respectful library patrons.
- Mindful of protocols, they are offering weekly in-person craft programs.
- Attention and time is spent making the space feel good for staff and patrons.

#### **Taylor (Salmo)**

- Steady patron usage with some lulls due to heat and smoke.
- More computers and seating are open for use, and they are well used.
- Summer sidewalk book sale went well.
- Their food preparation lending collection is popular in the Fall.
- Using the CBT school works grant for student staffing.
- Volunteers are slowly returning and helping with shelving of materials.
- Staff are helping patrons with their vaccine passports.
- Salmo Library is developing a reading garden behind the library. This project is funded through a bequest and a CBT grant. It will be complete in mid-October and will support outdoor programming.
- Peer to peer tutoring is happening.
- They are offering programming in small groups for children.
- CBAL is using the library space, when closed, for their tech support tutoring program.

#### **Karin (Kimberley)**

- Seeing such fluctuations.
- They have no plans to open in-house programs at this time. There is no interest plus the abundance of tourists in town have patrons reluctant.
- Volunteers are not ready to return.
- Online programming and doing outreach and outdoor programming in the community. In fact, have hired a new staff person to help with their environmental perspective programs.
- Bathroom stall advertising frames are being purchased. Marketing to the youth and YA for poetry, with the ultimate goal of creating a book. A real community collaboration.
- CBAL is offering their 1 on 1 technical support tutoring using plexi-glass. This is the only programming happening in the library.

#### **Eva (Kaslo)**

- Everything takes longer with COVID.
- Kaslo open 23 hours per week. Pre-COVID it was 28 but cannot see how to return to 28 open hours without volunteers.
- Canada Summer grants fund 3 different student positions throughout the year. The constant training is tiring.
- Their StoryWalk program is very popular with kids and adults alike.
- Outdoor crafts programs at Vimy Park is popular.
- Read-a-Thon fundraising for their new library. Phase 1 is complete, the purchase of land in a dream spot downtown has been accomplished.
- Kaslo Library received an amazing bequest in the amount of \$200,000.

#### **Emma (Fernie)**

- Is appreciating everyone's support and words today.
- Offering online and outdoor programs.
- Doing some limited school outreach in the library garden or using the book by bike. They also offer curated book baskets to schools.
- Also offering Zoom school visits where they clear library accounts of outstanding fines, help with downloading and upgrading the Libby app.
- Canadian Library Month is offering staff the chance to examine barriers to access. They have helped 300 people obtain and print vaccine passports. Many of these people have never come to the library before. Staff are receiving cards, flowers, and cakes from these new and grateful patrons. This is highlighting who in the community they've never served before.
- The only in-person programming happening in the library is the Youth Action Network, a community partner group, and they are asking for proof of vaccine.

#### **Ursula (Cranbrook)**

- They are finally expanding their hours, a process that began in July. Pointed out that as the open hours increase, the risk of COVID decreases as patrons are more spread out.
- Soft opening of new hours begins October 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a 2 week adjustment period to work through any concerns. Their hours will be Fri-Sun 10-5 and Mon-Thurs 10-8.
- Offering outdoor programming in October. Not sure when indoor programs will resume. Offering online programming over the winter.
- Their Idea Lab is coming together.
- Library website redesign is underway.
- ABCPLD and KLF keep her going through the important library community connections. Don't underestimate how lucky we are to have these connections!

#### **Marie (Beaver Valley)**

- Things are rolling along at Beaver Valley.
- No in-person programming as their space is too small. Poor connectivity in the area so virtual programming uptake is low. Unable to do outdoor programming as the only space is the parking lot – too hot in the summer!
- Offer Mother Moose craft bags for children. As well, have partnered with Columbia Seniors Wellness Group for 1+ yrs to offer craft bags for seniors. The wellness group has volunteer drivers who deliver the craft bags and this service has caught and helped some seniors in crisis situations (paramedics were called). It feels good to be part of that support network.
- Offering 2 computers for patrons, using plexi-glass to separate the spaces.

- Cloth furniture is a problem.
- Beaver Valley is using the network grant for software upgrades.

#### **Claire (Nakusp)**

- Holding a book sale September 25<sup>th</sup> with 11 new library volunteers.
- The new volunteers feel like a vote of confidence from the community for the library.
- A few partner groups use the Library during closed hours, such as the book club and the writing club.
- Used some grant funds for an air quality meter. It is very popular and generates a lot of community conversation about the readings, etc.! The building is old and has poor ventilation.
- Working on reconfiguring the library space to allow for meeting space requests. Looking at moveable furniture and shelving.
- Has also received a bequest and wants to bring a reading garden to the library.
- Beginning a project with CBAL and another group; poetry related.
- Helping with the Kootenay Teen Newspaper program – commented on the great, great youth and find them an enthusiastic group.
- Working through volunteer staffing, safety and insurance issues.

#### **Jacque (Radium)**

- Offering children grab & go programming bags, and active outdoor storytimes.
- Working with CBAL.
- Looking forward to using the candy shoot/launcher again, for Hallowe'en.
- Computers and seating have returned.
- The library has hired a casual employee to allow staff to take time off.
- Will do school outreach this fall and winter.
- Still working on the CBT technology grant.

#### **Saara (Creston)**

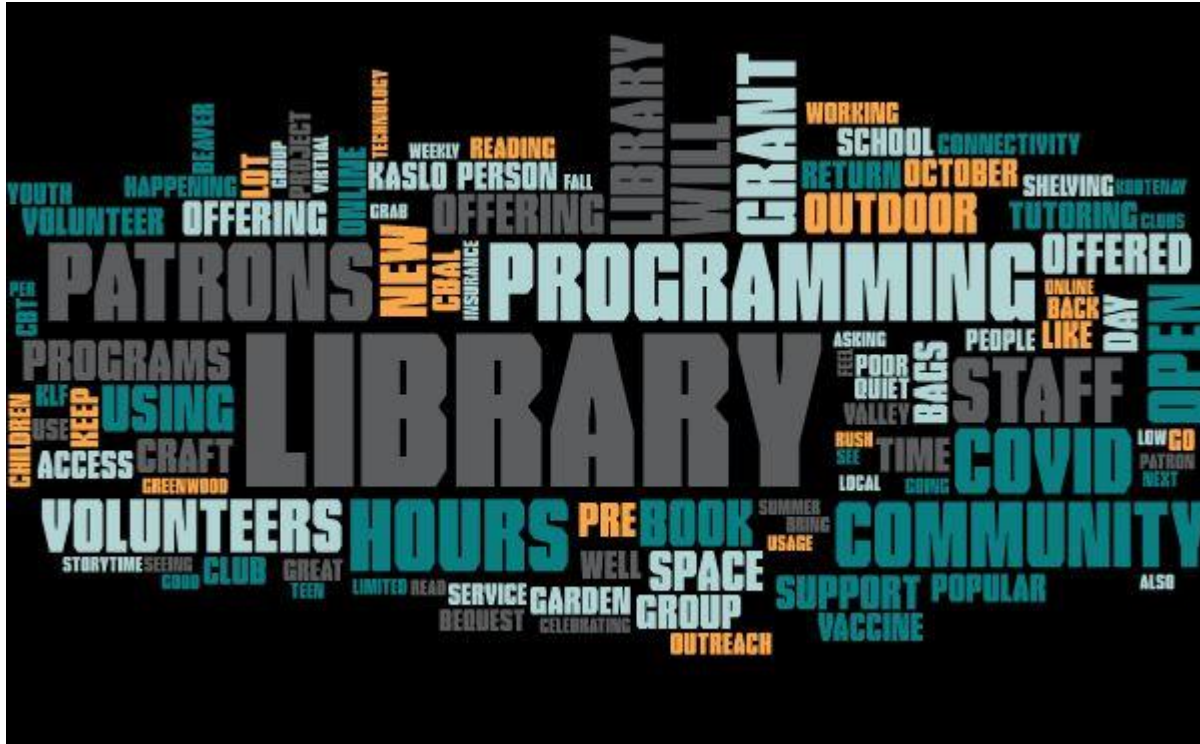
- Creston library is celebrating Library Month with an empty banner that is ready to be filled with positive messages from patrons, using heart shared post it notes.

#### **Alex (Elkford)**

- Most of the day-to-day operations in Elkford are as "normal" as can be. Book lending rates are high, and foot traffic is starting to approach what we were pre-COVID.
- Patrons don't stay very long so, like Kim we experience periods of high traffic followed by lulls where there is no one in the library. Very few patrons stick around for more than 15 minutes. We have a lot of traffic on the outdoor WiFi access point that we installed last year, there are almost always people sitting outside the library using it.
- Have opened more computers which patrons have been grateful for.
- Uncertain about programming. Did a lot of outdoor activities and story walks during the spring and summer which was wonderful. They had a lot of positive feedback from people in the community.
- Elkford is a small space and can have 10 people in it in terms of our occupancy limit ... it means that our indoor story times can fit maybe two or three families. The idea of turning people away at the door doesn't sound good.
- Virtual story times have not been popular in our community, but the virtual/take-home crafts have been popular, so we're continuing with virtual crafts.

- b. KLF Budget – discussion. The LDAG agreed to endorse the budget at the KLF Board meeting on September 25/21.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am Pacific / 12:30pm Mountain.



Round table themes
Volunteers
Reading gardens
Access & barriers
Outdoor programs
Community & school outreach

Upcoming meetings:

October 7<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> session of Courageous Conversations with Cara Pryor

October 28<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> session of Courageous Conversations with Cara Pryor