



AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: Monday, May 16, 2022 at 6:00pm

LOCATION: HYBRID: Zoom Meeting / Vancouver Community Library; 901 C Street; Columbia Room

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8625288968>

Meeting ID: 862 3528 8968; Passcode: 861414

Or Dial: +1 206 337 9723

6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order
2. Agenda Approval ACTION
3. Chair Announcements INFORMATION
4. Reports: INFORMATION
 - 4.1 Debt Financing Options: Duncan Brown, PFM Financial Advisors
 - 4.2 FVRL Operational Report: Mary Abler, Deputy Director
 - 4.3 La Center Community Library Branch Report: Jurinda Swingruber, Branch Manager
 - 4.4 Outreach and Community Partnerships Division Report: Justin Keeler, Director
5. Consent Agenda ACTION
 - 5.1 Minutes Approval: April 18, 2022 meeting
 - 5.2 FVRL Expenditure Approval: Reviewed by Megan Dugan
6. Business
 - 6.1 Facilities Committee
 - a. Facilities Update: Dave Josephson INFORMATION
 - b. Staff Report 2022-21: Woodland Property Surplus INFORMATION
 - 6.2 Policy Committee
 - a. Staff Report 2022-19: Vancouver meeting room fee schedule INFORMATION
 - b. Adopt revised meeting room fees for Vancouver Community Library ACTION
 - 6.3 Finance Committee
 - a. April 2022 FVRL Financial Statements INFORMATION
 - b. Staff Report 2022-20: Finance Division Update INFORMATION
 - 6.4 Board Business INFORMATION
 - a. Board Retreat – Saturday, June 25, 2022
 - b. Committee Assignments and Bill Review Schedule (DRAFT)
7. Public Comments
8. Board Comments
9. Setting of next regular meeting – Saturday, June 25, 2022 (Hybrid/Location TBD)
10. Adjournment



May 2022 - ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

1. COVID-19 Service & Staffing Response

- All locations open a minimum of 10 am to 6 pm Monday - Friday
 - No meeting room use, no in-person programs

2. Capital Projects

- Operations Center (Mill Plain)
 - OC Electrical work - parking lot lights and gate
 - Paving between buildings complete
- Woodland Community Library
 - Hacker contract finalized
- Washougal Community Library
 - Library Advisory Committee meeting with Hacker
 - Staff building committee meeting
- Grand Boulevard building
 - Demolition permit
 - RFP for remodel/construction

3. Executive Director's Activities: April 18 - May 15, 2022

- Washougal Library Steering Committee
- Review OC remodel plans with Directors
- Vancouver Community Library space planning study
- Washougal Park Board
- Love Your Library fundraising event (Woodland)
- Brush Prairie Interest Group
- Johnston Architecture - GB/OC remodel plans
- Interim Finance management team
- Public Services Director Amy Lee Retirement
- Anne Digenis, Senior Philanthropic Advisor, SWWCF
- Washougal Branch Manager interviews
- Library Sustainability webinars (2)
- WA Intercounty Library Directors Meet Up (virtual)
- Equity Lens Training
- Copier contract review
- Washington State Library - Statewide DEI Initiative
- Washington Library Association Conference in Bellevue
- Policy and Finance Committees
- Finance Manager interviews
- Board bill review training and procedure
- VA Early Learning Center stakeholders meeting



May 2022 – Strategic Plan Update

FVRLibraries is committed to providing regular updates about our [2021-2024 Strategic Plan](#).

EQUITY

- 48 staff members have attended the first half of the Equity Lens and Toolkit training so far, and we have two more sessions scheduled in the second half of May.

PARTNERSHIPS

- Branch managers have been trained on LibConnect, our partnership database, which we will use to track interactions and projects with our partners.

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

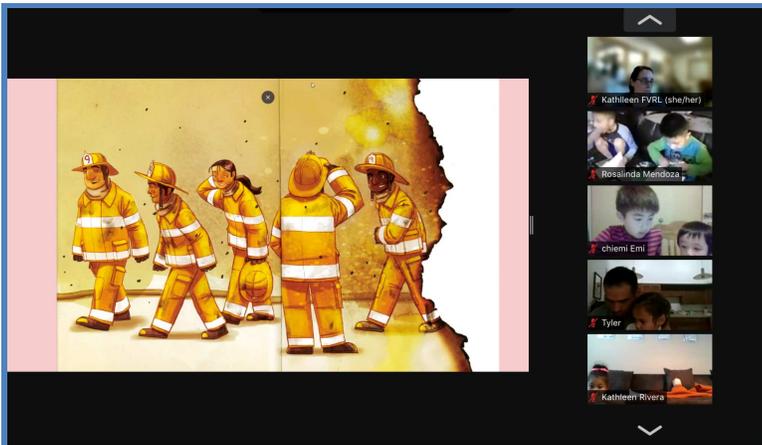
- Four staff members attended the Washington Library Association Annual Conference in Bellevue.
- Plans are underway for revisiting the action items in the Strategic Plan for the second year of the plan (2022-2023).

APRIL BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 16, 2022

EQUITY

- Susan at La Center Community Library created an Autism & Neuro-Divergent Awareness book display that drew a lot of attention from patrons. Some of their young patrons self identified with the topic and asked to check out several items.
- Vancouver Mall Library focused their April window display on their Spanish collection. Every item in the window was in Spanish, emphasizing things created in Spanish rather than just items translated into Spanish. At least two people signed up for their first library card with FVRL because they learned from the display that we had a Spanish collection.



- Kathleen Mintz from Three Creeks Community Library and Elizabeth Martin from Cascade Park Community Library held a program called Celebración del Día de los niños. Staff worked with Latino Leadership Northwest (LLNW) to host an online, bilingual

event. Teen LLNW interns read several picture books to attendees, in both English and Spanish, as well as interpreted instructions and information. In between stories, the families made crafts from their take-home kits and then had the opportunity to show off their completed projects. The picture above shows one of the stories that was read by a teen and families listening along.

- White Salmon Valley Community Library branch manager Ruth Shafer has been accepted onto the Advisory Board for the Klickitat County Services to Seniors.

CONNECTIONS

- At the beginning of April, Battle Ground Community Library and Vancouver Community Library added open hours to their schedule which have been well received by the community.

CONNECTIONS (continued)

- Vancouver Community Library staff have been busy distributing Read, Return, Repeat items to the Rock Cove Adult Living Facility in Stevenson, Vista Court Senior Apartments in Vancouver, the Vancouver Meals On Wheels, The Recovery Cafe, the City of Vancouver's Stay Safe community located at the intersection of highway 500 and 112th street, and Knights of Pythias Retirement Center The Senior Outreach team (Kelsey N., Carol F., and Sarah C.) started in-person outreach at Columbia House and Knights of Pythias, after over two years away. The seniors were THRILLED to have us back!

PARTNERSHIPS

- Washougal Community Library has been preparing for a robust year in the Seed Library Garden in partnership with Master Gardeners and the City of Washougal. The beds have been weeded, tilled, and prepared, and seeds from the Washougal Seed Library have been carefully planted indoors and moved outdoors into the appropriate beds - we have individual beds for Pollinators, Herbs, Vegetables, Native Plants, and Xeriscaping.



- Battle Ground, Cascade Park, Three Creeks, and Vancouver Community Libraries continue to offer Repair Clark County monthly drop-off times for patrons to bring their broken items in. Our patrons are very grateful for this wonderful service.
- Goldendale Community Library branch manager Terra McLeod attended a celebration at the Goldendale Observatory. Attendees took a school bus from the high school and were able to tour the grounds and view the sun through two different telescopes. The event also hosted Governor Inslee, state representatives, and some city and county representatives. Terra invited the mayor, Mike Cannon, and city administrator, Larry Belamy to a tour of the library in the near future.
- Staff from Vancouver and Battle Ground Community Libraries and the Operations Center attended mock interviews for teens at Prairie High School hosted by Partners in Career, a local workforce development organization.

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

- The remodel of the downstairs staff workspace at Stevenson Community Library is nearly complete, making the space much more usable, comfortable, and efficient for staff and Friends volunteers to work.

**FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Public Meeting Minutes**

April 18, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 6:00pm noting that there was an Executive Session held at 5:35pm on the topic of Real Estate with no action taken.

ATTENDEES:

Board Members Present: Jane Higgins, Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, Penny Love-Henslee, Kristy Morgan, Megan Dugan

Virtual: Kaitlin Dittmar; *Excused:* Kate Maple

Administrative Team: Amelia Shelley, Executive Director; Mary Abler, Deputy Director, Lynne Caldwell, Collection & Technology Services Director; Justin Keeler, Outreach & Community Partnerships Director; Tak Kendrick, Communications Director; Dave Josephson, Facilities Director; Lee Strehlow, Human Resources Director; Special Guests: Marissa Jordan, Hacker Architects; Nancy Kasmar, Compensation Connections; Recording: Sami Bretherton, Executive Assistant

2. AGENDA

MOTION: Mary Ann Duncan-Cole moved and Penny Love-Henslee seconded approval of the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

3. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Higgins welcomed the Board and the public.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Washougal Library Conceptual Design: Marissa Jordan, Hacker Architects

Guest, Marissa Jordan, presented conceptual design ideas for the new Washougal Community Library.

4.2 FVRL Salary Review: Nancy Kasmar, Compensation Connections

Guest, Nancy Kasmar, presented the results of the FVRL salary review. Every 4-5 years, FVRL does a compensation study with the purpose to inform Union bargaining and for alignment with the market.

4.3 FVRL Operational Report: Mary Abler, Deputy Director

Abler updated the Board on our current service activities as well as a strategic plan update.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Minutes Approval – March 21, 2022 meeting

5.2 FVRL Expenditure Approval: Reviewed by Mary Ann Duncan-Cole

5.3 Three Creeks Library Capital Facilities Area Audit Report

MOTION: Mary Ann Duncan-Cole and Kristy Morgan seconded approval of the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Gifts and Recognition Policy

This is the first reading of the Gifts and Recognition policy. The policy will be brought back to the Board for a second reading at the May meeting.

6.2 Facilities Committee – Woodland Property Subdivision

Discussion of subdivision of Woodland property purchased by FVRL.

MOTION: Penny Love-Henslee moved and Kristy Morgan seconded approval of Resolution 2022-07, authorizing the Executive Director to subdivide the property purchased for the Woodland Community Library. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.

MOTION: Megan Dugan moved and Penny Love-Henslee seconded approval of Resolution 2022-08, authorizing the Executive Director to engage in finalizing the contract for architectural and engineering consultant services for the Woodland Community Library. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.

6.3 Finance Committee

- a. Future Capital Projects Funding
 - i. Discussion of ways to fund library facilities
- b. 5-year Look Ahead Budget Estimates
 - i. A view of the 2022-2026 budget with debt service

6.4 Board Business

Chair Higgins discussed selecting a date for the annual Board retreat, committee assignment interest and to gather information to create a bill review schedule.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Written comments were received from: bubblechuckle, R L, Lori Judkins, Kristin Mangino, Margo Logan, Will Matson, John and Sherry Bala, Susan Wilson

In person comments received from: Gary Wilson, Quill Onstead, Doug Coe, Phil Kronebusch

BOARD COMMENTS

Chair Higgins thanked the public and Trustees for their time and attendance.

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next meeting is Monday, May 16, 2022 (Hybrid)

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

Approved:

Jane Higgins, Chair

Date

Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, Secretary

Date

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
Statement Of Cash
For the Month Ending April 2022 (With year-to-date totals)

	December 31, 2021 Ending Cash Balance	\$19,673,194
	Year-to-date Revenue Received	\$12,395,388
	Year-to-date Expenditures	-\$8,517,536
Estimated	Cash Balance January 31, 2022	\$23,551,046

January 01, 2022 - December 31, 2022 Fiscal Year

Restatement of cash balance with cash reserve plan -

December 31, 2021 Ending Cash Balance	\$19,672,242
April 2022 Cash Balance:	\$23,551,046
Reserve Plan Objectives 1-4:	-\$10,398,282
Operational Reserve; should be a minimum of 17% of annual operational budget (Variance occurs due to when property tax revenue is received)	\$13,152,764

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
Statement Of Revenue - Calendar Year 2022
For the Month Ending April 2022 (With year-to-date totals)

	2022 Budget (Approved 12/21)	April 2022 Revenues	All Revenue Received thru April 2022	Year - to - Date Annual Budget Percent
Property Taxes				
311.10 Property Taxes - Clark	24,250,000	9,814,608	11,926,257	49.18%
311.10 Property Taxes - Skamania	675,000	-	14,635	2.17%
311.10 Property Taxes - Klickitat	1,345,500	149,949	169,669	12.61%
311.10 Property Taxes - Cowlitz	325,000	21,226	25,459	7.83%
Total Property Taxes	26,595,500	9,985,783	12,136,020	45.63%
Other Taxes				
311.11 Other General Tax	0	0	21,187	0.00%
318.20 Leasehold Excise Tax	120,000	346	37,317	31.10%
Total Other Taxes	120,000	346	58,504	48.75%
Intergovernmental, Grants & Contracts				
332.00 Federal in-lieu of Taxes	5,000	0	482	9.64%
335.05 State Forest Boards	225,000	73	7,050	3.13%
338.72 Yale Valley Library Dist	162,500	0	51,437	31.65%
338.72 INET City of Vancouver (PEG)	61,000	0	0	0.00%
338.72 Contracts - Clark County Jail	500	0	0	0.00%
Total Intergovernmental, Grants & Contracts	454,000	73	58,969	12.99%
Charges for Services				
341.60 Equipment Use Fees	20,000	2,311	8,561	42.81%
347.21 Non-Resident Borrower Fee	6,000	66	1,951	32.52%
347.90 Lost / Damaged Material Fee	25,000	0	6,773	27.09%
347.50 Collection Agency Referral Fee	5,000	60	680	13.60%
Total Charges for Services	56,000	2,437	17,965	32.08%
Miscellaneous				
361.11 Investment Interest	120,000	10,017	34,799	29.00%
362.00 Rental Income	2,500	18,516	85,019	0.00%
367.09 Restricted Contribution - BG	-	0	1,911	0.00%
367.09 Restricted Contribution - GD	-	0	200	0.00%
367.09 Restricted Contribution - WS	-	0	200	0.00%
367.10 Gifts/Contributions	15,000	18	174	1.16%
369.90 Library Friends Groups' Reimbursements	150,000	0	1,564	1.04%
369.90 Library Foundation Reimbursements	1,000,000	0	0	0.00%
369.40 Insurance Reimbursements	250,000	0	110	0.04%
369.90 Miscellaneous	2,500	(762)	(527)	-21.09%
367.11 Private Grants	150,000	0	0	0.00%
369.90 Other Miscellaneous - E-Rate	200,000	0	0	0.00%
395.00 Sale of Assets	20,000	0	480	2.40%
Total Miscellaneous	1,910,000	27,789	123,930	6.49%
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 29,135,500	\$ 10,016,429	\$ 12,395,388	42.54%
Transfer in from Reserves	\$ 2,400,000	0	0	0.00%
Total Revenues and Transfer from Reserve	\$ 31,535,500	\$ 10,016,429	\$ 12,395,388	39.31%

4/12 months = 33.33%

Jan.-Dec. 2022 Fiscal Year

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
Statement of Expenses - Calendar Year 2022
For the Month Ending April 2022 (With year-to-date totals)

Bars	Description	2022 Budget (Approved 12/21)	April 2022 Expenditures	Year-to-Date Totals thru April 2022	Year to Date Annual Budget Percentage
Personnel					
572.10	Wages	12,000,000	970,404	3,747,031	31.23%
572.24	Benefit - Medical	2,560,000	189,527	652,955	25.51%
572.24	Benefit - Dental	300,000	23,329	90,376	30.13%
572.24	Benefit - Life, LTD, STD	125,000	11,078	43,264	34.61%
572.22	Benefit - PERS	1,540,000	96,458	374,778	24.34%
572.21	Benefit - FICA	910,000	72,531	280,375	30.81%
572.25	Benefit - L & I - Workers Compensation	100,000	5,621	23,453	23.45%
572.25	Benefit - PFML	20,000	1,557	5,991	29.96%
572.28	Unemployment Expense	10,000	-	-1,325	-13.25%
	Personnel Subtotal:	17,565,000	1,370,505	5,216,898	29.70%
Supplies					
572.30	Supplies	392,525	35,887	119,149	30.35%
572.35	Small Equipment (FF&E)	266,700	3,137.00	40,253	15.09%
572.38	Technology	433,000	743.00	118,427	27.35%
572.33	Professional Collection / Tech	350,000	43,363.00	95,895	27.40%
	Supplies & Small Equipmt/Tech Subtotal:	1,442,225	83,130	373,724	25.91%
Library Books / Materials					
572.34	Library Books & Materials	2,300,000	183,105	437,773	19.03%
572.39	Electronic Resources	1,600,000	65,654	465,422	29.09%
	Library Materials Subtotal:	3,900,000	248,759	903,195	23.16%
Other Services / Charges					
572.41	Professional Services	1,725,000	265,172	591,209	34.27%
572.42	Communications	387,800	41,288	146,000	37.65%
572.43	Training / Travel	108,000	7,225	37,735	34.94%
572.44	Advertising	30,000	695	973	3.24%
572.45	Rentals / Leases	567,925	50,556	264,313	46.54%
572.46	Insurance	220,000	1,544	3,559	1.62%
572.47	Utilities	458,855	32,204	145,172	31.64%
572.48	Repairs & Maintenance	704,250	31,412	224,968	31.94%
572.49	Misc / Dues / Printing / Other	165,700	20,668	45,450	27.43%
572.50	Intergovernmental Services	3,640	19	980	26.92%
xxx.xx	Unallocated expenses	-	18,623	18,623	-
	Other Charges & Services Subtotal:	4,371,170	469,406	1,478,982	33.83%
Capital Outlay					
594.62	Buildings / Non-Owned	500,000	20,293	230,922	46.18%
594.62	Buildings / Owned	3,392,105	31,085	312,559	9.21%
595.62	Yale Project	40,000	-	1,192	2.98%
594.64	Machinery & Equipment	325,000	-	64	0.02%
	Capital Outlay Subtotal:	4,257,105	51,378	544,737	12.80%
Reserved Amount					
572.41	Professional Services-2022 Projects	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	0.00%
Total Operating Expenditures:		31,535,500	2,223,178	8,517,536	27.01%
Total Reserved Projects		-	-	-	0.00%
Grand Total All Expenditures:		31,535,500	2,223,178	8,517,536	27.01%

April is the 4th month of the fiscal year.
Year-to-date budget percentages should
be at 33.33%, representing 4/12 months.

FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

Approval of Claims

**As of
May 16, 2022**

As required by RCW 42.24.080 and RCW 42.24.090, vouchers audited and certified by the Auditing Officer of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District and those expense reimbursement claims which have been certified as required, have been recorded on a list and made available to the Board of Directors for approval.

As of this date, May 16, 2022, The Board of Directors, by a _____
vote does approve for payment the following vouchers, warrants, voids, and electronic transfers issued
April 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022

Accounts Payable Warrants Issued	Numbers	<u>114739</u>	Through	<u>114986</u>	<u>\$ 1,180,422.33</u>
Accounts Payable Warrants Voided	Numbers				<u>(\$ 3,600.18)</u>
Payroll Direct Deposits Issued	Numbers	<u>P-20220407-5</u>	Through	<u>P-20220422-9</u>	<u>\$ 886,208.27</u>
Electronic Fund and Wire Transfers Completed					
<i>Vendor</i>	<i>Date</i>			<i>Amount</i>	
ADP	Payday April 25, 2022			4,508.08	
WA Department of Revenue	April 15, 2022			3,722.92	
Kaiser	April 29, 2022			65.00	
Kaiser	April 29, 2022			16,403.24	
Endicia	April 14, 2022			8,000.00	
WA Dept of Retirement	April 13, 0222			87,617.15	
WA Dept of Retirement	April 6, 2022			76,456.30	
Various	April 7, 2022 - April 28, 2022			15,399.56	<u>\$ 212,172.25</u>
Subtotal FVRL General Fund Warrants, Transfers, Direct Deposits, Voids					<u><u>\$ 2,275,202.67</u></u>
Total Transactions for Approval					\$ 2,275,202.67

DISTRICT LIBRARY - AUDITING OFFICER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD COVER WORKSHEET

BOARD DATE:

May 16, 2022

Date Paid	Warrant Numbers	Amount	Void/Cancel Amounts
Accounts Payable			
April 1, 2022	114739 -114795	463,031.00	
April 7, 2022	114796-114823	54,029.87	
April 8, 2022	114824-114836	18,623.25	
April 15, 2022	114837-114887	196,439.36	
April 21, 2022	114888-114936	253,395.26	
April 27, 2022	114937-114986	194,873.59	
Total Accounts Payable Warrants Issued		1,180,392.33	
Accounts Payable EFT Payments			
April 28, 2022	P-20220428-3	8,796.99	(\$35.10 failed to transer - AS 5/12/22)
April 21, 2022	P-20220421-5	158.78	
April 21, 2022	P-20220421-6	6,378.50	
April 7, 2022	P-20220407-12	65.29	
Total Accounts Payable EFT Payments		15,399.56	
Accounts Payable Voids and Cancels			
April 5, 2022	114722		2,985.00
April 5, 2022	114726		615.18
Total Accounts Payable Warrant Voids and Cancels			3,600.18
Total ADP ACH Auto Pull			
Payday April 8, 2022	Payroll	337,403.30	
Payday April 8, 2022	State Family & Medical Leave	2,949.14	
Payday April 8, 2022	Federal	111,175.08	
Payday April 8, 2022	Oregon	3,395.18	
Payday April 25, 2022	Payroll	317,031.55	
Payday April 25, 2022	State Family & Medical Leave	2,844.43	
Payday April 25, 2022	Federal	107,215.19	
Payday April 25, 2022	Oregon	3,194.40	
Payday April 25, 2022	ADP Fee	4,508.08	
Total Payroll Direct Deposit Transfers		889,716.35	
ACH EFT Transfer			
April 15, 2022	WA Department of Revenue	3,722.92	
April 29, 2022	Kaiser	65.00	
April 29, 2022	Kaiser	16,403.24	
April 14, 2022	Endicia	8,000.00	
April 13, 2022	WA Dept of Retirement	87,617.15	
April 6, 2022	WA Dept of Retirement	76,456.30	
		192,264.61	
		2,277,772.85	3,600.18

Finance Director Reviewed _____

Date _____

**Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
Staff Report 2022-21
Surplus and Sale of Property**

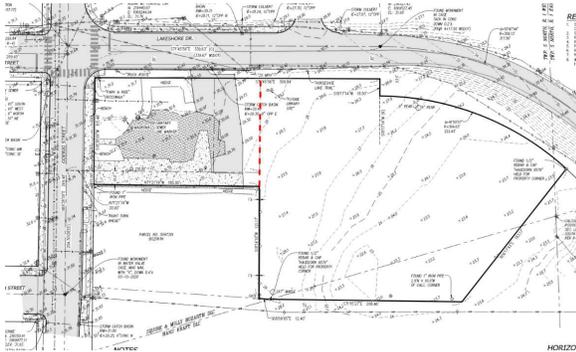
TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Amelia Shelley, Executive Director

DATE: 05/16/2022

SUBJECT: Surplus and sale of subdivided property in Woodland

SUMMARY: FVRL is currently in the process of subdividing the property that is the site for the new Woodland Community Library. FVRL has determined it no longer needs to retain the excess corner property for the project. In order to sell the property, FVRL needs to first undertake the process of surplusing the land which requires notification and a public hearing.



NEXT STEPS:

- Subdivision will determine amount of land that can be surplussed and sold
- FVRL needs to determine “fair value” for the property in advance of the surplus
- FVRL needs to advertise that the land will be surplussed
- FVRL needs to hold a public hearing prior to the Board approving the surplus of property

OVERVIEW: Last month, the Board voted to subdivide the property owned in Woodland to allow for the potential surplus and sale prior to construction of the new library. The sale will provide some additional financial support for the project and reduce FVRL’s responsibility to care for the larger piece of property now and in the future.

ACTION: Staff intends to proceed with the surplus process prior to a public hearing at the next Board meeting.

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
Staff Report 2022-19
Policy Committee Report

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Amelia Shelley
DATE: 05/16/2022

SUBJECT: Meeting room fees at the Vancouver Community Library

SUMMARY: FVRL's [Meeting Space Usage Policy](#) intends to make most meeting room use at our libraries available for free. Our policy has a provision for private use of meeting rooms at the Vancouver Community Library (VA). All other meeting room use at FVRL is considered public use - meaning that all meetings must be free to attend and open to the public. In order to justify private use, VA has charged a use fee for those rooms since it opened in 2011, and the fees have remained unchanged during that time.

At this time, only FVRL's VA facility allows for private use. Requiring a fee is intended to serve as a deterrent to excessive private use of the library's meeting and study rooms, and to compensate the facility for any afterhours use that requires that a staff person remain in the building during the event. Charging a fee also means that the library is not unfairly competing against facilities in the community that are charging a fee for meeting room use.

The VA staff has requested that the fee schedule be increased to reflect higher staff and facility costs and to keep the meeting rooms at rates more similar to other venues in the community.

KEY POINTS:

- Fees are nominal and only for private use
- Fees cover additional costs of staff time and management of reservations
- Fees help deter cancellations and abuse of the facility

REQUESTED ACTION: Staff requests that the Board approve the new fee schedule.

See attached Fee Schedules - current and proposed.

Vancouver Community Library Meeting Room Information and Columbia Room Fees

[Meeting Space Usage Policy](#)

[Scheduling Link](#)

Hourly Rental Rates	<i>Time must include set-up, tear-down, and clean-up</i>	Columbia Room	Klickitat Room	Skamania Room
Organization Status		Hourly Rates		
Government	Public Entities / Elected officials / neighborhood assn.	\$0	\$0	\$0
Non-Profit org / clubs / informal groups / government	Open to public and no admission or donation. Library open hours only.	\$0	\$0	\$0
Non-Profit org / clubs / informal groups / government	Closed to public and/or admission or donation	\$50.00	Not available	Not available
For-profit or / private individuals / fundraiser	Open to Public and no admission or donation	\$50.00	Not available	Not available
For-profit or / private individuals / fundraiser	Closed to public and or admission or donation	\$100.00	Not available	Not available
First Come / First Served	Reserve same day only in person. 2 Hours only.	Not available	\$0	\$0
Additional hourly Fee for before and/or after library hours.	Columbia Room and Atrium Area. Atrium available after hours ONLY.	\$100.00 (Total \$150 or \$200 hourly for after hours access) (\$30)	Not available	Not available
Additional Requirements		Columbia Room	Klickitat Room	Skamania Room
Payment	Due no later than 5 days before the event. Payments must be made with credit card online or by check. No cash or credit payments accepted in the library. It is occasionally necessary for the library to cancel a reservation due to extenuating circumstances. Every effort will be made to give at least 24 hour notice. Groups needing to cancel are asked to contact the library as soon as possible to make the room available to others. Refunds provided on a case-by-case basis.	Yes	N/A	N/A
Advance reservations required	No standing or recurring reservations / one reservation at a time	Yes	Yes	Yes
Responsible party / Designated member	Must be present for duration of event	Yes	Yes	Yes
Food & Beverages	Approved caterer or certified kitchen (Costco, Fred Meyer, etc)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alcoholic Beverages (after hours)	Requires pre-approval / beer & wine only / appropriate license required	After Hours Only	N/A	N/A

<i>only)</i>				
Music	After Hours Only unless pre-approved. Must be contained in room with doors closed.	After Hours Only	N/A	N/A
Decorations	Nothing attached to walls, ceilings, or floor / NO BALLOONS (due to smoke alarm system) / no open flames	Required	Required	Required
Set-up & Tear down	Reservation holder/group's responsibility.	Required	Required	Required
Clean-up & Garbage removal	Spaces and furniture must be returned to pre-event condition. Users must clean up after their event and remove any excess trash. Failure to leave the room in good condition may result in loss of privileges for meeting room use.	Required	Required	Required
Staffing	Library staff will be on-site during event.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Room Details		Columbia Room	Klickitat Room	Skamania Room
Open Hours & Access Hours	Sun, Mon, Fri, Sat - 10AM-6PM Tue, Wed, Thur - 9AM-7PM No Library holiday access After Hours must have a staff member available to be on site before approval.	7AM-10PM with additional \$100 hourly fee for after hours access	Open Hours	Open Hours
Doors	All Columbia Room Doors must remain closed at all times during library open hours. Directional signs may be posted outside of the Columbia Room Doors utilizing a library provided stand or on the glass doors in Klickitat and Skamania. Special permission to open the doors may be granted to partner organizations providing free programs that are open to the public.	Required	Required	Required
Recommended Occupancy		120	30	20
Room Square Footage		2005	579	449
Room Dimensions		48'x42'	20'x29'	20'x22'
Amenities		Columbia Room	Klickitat Room	Skamania Room
Atrium Area	For use before and/or after library open hours. During open hours, Columbia Room Doors must remain closed to reduce noise.	Yes	N/A	N/A
Catering prep kitchen	Refrig/Sink/dishwasher/counter	Yes	N/A	N/A
Tables	Clean after use	24 (72"x30")	6 (60"x30")	6 (60"x30")
Chairs		100	28	20
White Board	Clean board after use. Dry erase markers may be available, but it is recommended to bring your own supplies.	N/A	Yes	Yes

Projector & Screen	Practice and review of equipment recommended before the event takes place. Staff may not be available to assist.	Yes	Yes	Yes
DVD / Blu Ray / CD player	Practice and review of equipment recommended before the event takes place. Staff may not be available to assist.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sound System	Practice and review of equipment recommended before the event takes place. Staff may not be available to assist.	Yes	N/A	N/A
Microphones	Practice and review of equipment recommended before the event takes place. Staff may not be available to assist.	Yes	N/A	N/A

REQUEST A ROOM RESERVATION

Guidelines

- Different rooms are available at different times, so **please read the limits for each room** before requesting.
- We can only accept one reservation at a time per organization or individual. Consecutive day events are allowed. Standing or regularly recurring reservations are not allowed.
- Your reservation time must include the time needed to set-up, clean, and reset the room. **Allow about 30 minutes for 2 people to set and reset tables, arrange chairs and remove trash and debris if necessary.** You must return the space to pre-event condition after your event is done.
- We'll review all reservation requests and **notify you of our decision within seven (7) days of receipt** of the reservation request.
- Please don't advertise your event until you have received approval of your reservation from library staff.
- When you publicize your event, please refer to the location using its **official branch name**.
- Event notices, posters and fliers may not imply that the Library endorses or sponsors the event. Use of FVRLibraries' logo on event notices, posters and flyers is prohibited.
- You are responsible for monitoring any accompanying children. Don't leave children unattended in the Library.
- When canceling a reservation, please give the Library at least 24-hour notice.
- Read our **Meeting Space Usage Policy**—you'll need to indicate that you've read and agree with it when you submit your room request.
- Rooms in Vancouver Community Library may require room rental fees for your event. For details, please view the **information sheet**.

*Only the following community libraries have rooms for public use: **Battle Ground, Cascade Park, Goldendale, Ridgefield, Stevenson, Three Creeks, Vancouver, and White Salmon Valley.** You may need to adjust your filters in order to find available rooms.*

Vancouver Community Library - Room Use Information		Columbia Room	Klickitat Room	Skamania Room
Hourly Rental Rates	<i>Time must include set-up, tear-down and clean-up</i>	Hourly Rates		
Government	Public entities/elected officials/neighborhood assn.	\$0	\$0	\$0
Non-profit org / clubs / informal groups	Open to public and no admission or donation	\$30	\$0	\$0
Non-profit org / clubs / informal groups	Closed to public and/or admission or donation	\$50	\$20	\$20
For-profit org / private individuals	Open to public and no admission or donation	\$80	\$30	\$30
For-profit org / private individuals	Closed to public and/or admission or donation	\$120	\$40	\$40
First Come / First Served	Reserve same day only	N/A	\$0	\$0
Add for before and/or after library open hours	Columbia Room and Atrium area only	\$30	N/A	N/A
Additional Fees		One Time Fees		
Payment	Due no later than 15 days before event	X	X	X
Advance reservations required	No standing our recurring reservations/one reservation at a time	X	X	X
Responsible party / Designated member	Must be present for duration of event	X	X	X
Open Hours & Access Hours	M-Th 9am-8pm F-Su 10am-6pm / No Library holiday access	6:30am-11pm	Open hrs	Open hrs
Recommended Occupancy		120	30	20
Room Square Footage		2005	579	449
Room Dimensions		48' x 42'	20' x 29'	20' x 22'
Amenities				
Atrium area	For use before and/or after library open hours	X	N/A	N/A
Catering prep kitchen	Refrig/sink/microwave/dishwasher/counters/pantry/ice machine	X	N/A	N/A
Sink(s)		4	N/A	N/A
Countertop		5 ft	6 ft	2 ft
Tables		36 (72"x30")	6 (60"x30")	6 (60"x30")
Chairs		120	28	20
White Board		N/A	1 (72"x72")	1 (72"x72")
Projector & Screen		X	X	X
DVD / Blu Ray / CD player		X	X	X
Sound System		X	N/A	N/A
Microphones		X	N/A	N/A
Food & Beverage	Approved caterer or certified kitchen (Costco, Fred Meyer, etc)	X	X	X
Alcoholic Beverages (Columbia Rm after hours only)	Requires pre-approval/beer & wine only/appropriate license required	X	N/A	N/A
Music	Must be contained within room unless approved for Atrium use	X	N/A	N/A
Decorations	Nothing attached to walls & ceilings / no balloons/ no open flame	X	X	X
Set-up & Tear down	Rental group responsibility	X	X	X
Clean-up & Garbage removal	Spaces must be returned to pre-event condition	X	X	X
Staffing	Library staff person will be on-site during event	X	X	X

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District
Staff Report 2022-20
Finance Department Update

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Amelia Shelley, Executive Director

DATE: 05/16/2022

SUBJECT: Update on the status of Finance Manager position, other activities

FINANCE DIVISION STAFFING

FVRL is in the process of recruiting a new Finance Manager and is interviewing this week. We have been operating without a Finance Manager since mid-February. Teresa Johnson and Assoc. (TJA) is providing accounting support to FVRL through CPA Christine Smith.

Christine is performing the higher level functions of the vacant position including requesting payments through the Clark County Treasurer's portal, printing checks, reconciling revenues and expenditures, and supporting staff by working with them on documenting and improving their procedures. Finance Coordinator Attar Bhangal has also taken on additional duties during the interim and is the Accounting lead in our upcoming upgrade to our Great Plains accounting software.

Human Resources Manager Andrea Scherer has been covering payroll for us since February. We are pleased to have long-term FVRL employee Nicholas Spinelli as our new Payroll Clerk as of May 9. Our Accounts Payable Specialist has been on extended leave, so we have had a temporary employee to keep AP covered during their absence. Other Finance and Administrative staff are also helping to ensure that our AP stays current along with their other tasks. I sincerely appreciate everyone's hard work at keeping our finances in order and compliant with state laws.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Christine and I have discussed the challenges we face with getting monthly financials in time for both the Finance Committee's meeting and the Board meeting. The County is not able to determine the share or interest payments to pool participants sooner than the 10th of the month. Depending on when our Board meeting occurs, it can be a struggle to get current financials to the Board prior to meeting.

Christine suggested we consider pushing our financials out by one month, so that the Board is reviewing the current bills every month, but seeing revenue and expenditures on the financials stated one month in arrears. The advantage is less stress and pressure to get our financials completed (which can delay other tasks) and a more streamlined approach to the process. The downside would be less visibility if a sudden drop in revenue were to occur. **The Finance Committee determined that the best time to make this change would be at the start of the next calendar year, and recommended that the District adopt the practice at that time.**

ANNUAL SAO REPORTS

FVRL is required to submit annual financial reports to the State Auditor's Office before the end of May each year. TJA is assisting us with these reports. The VLCFA annual report is already complete, and they are currently working on the Yale Valley Library District and FVRL for 2021. They believe all three reports will be completed in advance of the deadline.

GREAT PLAINS UPGRADE

We are scheduled for an upgrade to our Great Plains (GP) finance software on June 1. This will bring our enterprise system up to the current version. Attar is taking the lead along with Christine, as well as Lucien and Mike from IT.

FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2022 Committee Members -draft

Committee	Members
Executive	1 Jane Higgins
Personnel	Penny Love-Henslee (Chair) Kristy Morgan Jane Higgins Megan Dugan (alternate)
Finance	Jane Higgins (Chair) Kate Maple Penny Love-Henslee Kristy Morgan (alternate)
Policy	Jane Higgins (Chair) Megan Dugan Kristy Morgan Kaitlin Dittmar (alternate)
Facility and Service Planning	Megan Dugan (Chair) Kaitlin Dittmar Mary Ann Duncan-Cole Kristy Morgan (alternate)
Nominating	Kaitlin Dittmar (Chair) Megan Dugan Mary Ann Duncan-Cole Penny Love-Henslee (alternate)
Foundation Liaison	Jane Higgins

2022 Board Officers:

Chair – Jane Higgins

Vice-Chair – Kate Maple

Secretary – Mary Ann Duncan-Cole

DRAFT

2022 FVRL Regular Board Meeting Dates/Locations/Bill Review

Meetings are generally held in the evening.

Questions can be directed to the Executive Director's office at 360-906-5011

DATE	FINANCE REVIEW
January 18 (Tuesday)	Jane
February 22 (Tuesday)	Kelsi
March 21 (Mon)	Kate
April 18 (Mon)	Mary Ann
May 16 (Mon)	Megan
June 25 (Sat)	Kristy
July 18 (Mon)	Penny
August 15 (Mon)	Kaitlin
September 19 (Mon)	Jane
October 17 (Mon)	Megan
November 14 (Mon)	Kristy
December 19 (Mon)	Penny

	April Circulation			YTD Circulation		
	2022	2021	Change	2022	2021	Change
Battle Ground Community Library	44,364	27,699	60.16%	172,472	105,259	63.85%
Cascade Park Community Library	68,622	38,429	78.57%	254,714	156,565	62.69%
La Center Community Library	6,881	4,648	48.04%	26,264	18,204	44.28%
Ridgefield Community Library	9,221	4,506	104.64%	36,449	19,133	90.50%
Three Creeks Community Library	46,461	29,184	59.20%	179,058	114,628	56.21%
Vancouver Community Library	56,501	30,078	87.85%	214,233	134,025	59.85%
Vancouver Mall Library	11,886	8,036	47.91%	46,316	32,190	43.88%
Washougal Community Library	7,880	6,934	13.64%	30,988	28,599	8.35%
Green Mountain Library Express	190	2	9400.00%	855	85	905.88%
Yacolt Library Express	4,724	1,963	140.65%	19,342	9,523	103.11%
LibCabinet at Vancouver Mall	5	958	100.00%	35	0	100.00%
Clark County Total	256,735	151,479	69.49%	980,726	618,211	58.64%
Woodland Community Library	5,212	3,941	32.25%	19,832	15,786	25.63%
Yale Library Express	779	161	383.85%	2,940	612	380.39%
Cowlitz County Total	5,991	4,102	46.05%	22,772	16,398	38.87%
Goldendale Community Library	6,774	3,392	99.71%	24,950	14,374	73.58%
White Salmon Valley Community Library	10,084	7,560	33.39%	40,579	29,815	36.10%
Klickitat County Bookmobile	1,061	6	17583.33%	4,299	398	980.15%
Klickitat County Total	17,919	10,958	63.52%	69,828	44,587	56.61%
North Bonneville Community Library	298	587		1,541	2,299	-32.97%
Stevenson Community Library	4,582	3,103	47.66%	17,532	13,050	34.34%
Skamania County Bookmobile	1,072	256	318.75%	4,455	799	457.57%
Skamania County Total	5,952	3,946	50.84%	23,528	16,148	45.70%
District-wide renewals	116	250	-53.60%	494	948	-47.89%
Mail	1,008	4,733	-78.70%	4,564	18,750	-75.66%
InterLibrary Loan Materials	343	49	600.00%	1,181	130	808.46%
Misc Total	1,467	5,032	-70.85%	6,239	19,828	-68.53%
Downloadable eBooks	53,652	58,543	-8.35%	220,261	253,438	-13.09%
eMagazines	1,913	2,494	-23.30%	7,273	11,271	-35.47%
Downloadable & streaming audiobooks	52,132	49,862	4.55%	205,966	209,837	-1.84%
Downloadable & streaming music	16,870	20,286	-16.84%	72,864	100,125	-27.23%
Streaming video	8,456	8,207	3.03%	32,847	38,577	-14.85%
eContent Total	133,023	139,392	-4.57%	539,211	613,248	-12.07%
TOTAL	421,087	314,909	33.72%	1,642,304	1,328,420	23.63%

FVRL, WSU Vancouver host Ukraine panel

thereflector.com/stories/fvrl-wsu-vancouver-host-ukraine-panel,289562



Attendees at a March 6 rally at Esther Short Park show support for Ukraine.

File photo

Rick Bannan / rick@thereflector.com

Though Russia's invasion of Ukraine this year may have come as a surprise to those in the U.S., local professors say Russian President Vladimir Putin's move makes historical sense.

Four professors at Washington State University Vancouver spoke in a virtual webinar on April 11 as they addressed the war in Ukraine. They offered perspectives from a political science, public affairs and historical stance as they focused on what happened before and after the start of the conflict on Feb. 24.

Hosted jointly by the university and Fort Vancouver Regional Library, the panel was designed to provide a better perspective on what has played into Russia's invasion.

Professor Anthony Lopez analyzed the “song and dance” of who is to blame for the war, be it Putin’s aggression or NATO’s expansion into former Eastern Bloc countries. Lopez said he has personally taken the middle ground, framing it in light of “historic Russian territorial paranoia” Putin has expressed during his leadership.

Lopez said the timing of the invasion focused on three things: grievance, opportunism and miscalculation.

On grievance, he said Putin has bemoaned the disintegration of the Soviet Union as “the most important strategic plunder of his lifetime.”

“But he’s no communist,” Lopez said. “Vladimir Putin is a nationalist seeking to steer Russia toward renewed great power status.”

Lopez said Putin interpreted democratic revolutions in former Soviet countries as a “well-funded Western plot to unseat him.” He said the Russian president has proven himself to be both calculating but also “risk-acceptant.” He noted Putin was motivated to reverse the mistakes of Russia’s past.

On opportunism, Lopez said relatively recent foreign policy successes like the 2008 war in Georgia, which caught western nations by surprise, the 2014 annexation of Crimea, and the 2015 boost of the Assad regime in Syria appeared to show a lack of response by those Putin considers adversaries.

“In short, the West was weak and divided while Russia was resurgent and riding a wave of foreign policy successes,” Lopez said.

The strike appears to be a miscalculation, Lopez continued, in part due to an assumption that Ukrainians would welcome Russia as liberators, and that the surrender of Kyiv would happen so quickly NATO would be caught off guard.

“This is a miscalculation that, by the way, that Americans should be very familiar with,” Lopez said.

Putin now has to refocus on smaller-scale goals such as the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine, he said. That shift isn’t an outright loss, Lopez said, as he noted Russian warfare is built on attrition.

Public affairs professor Paul Thiers said sanctions on Russia have greatly limited its ability to use the global economic system, export energy and import technology. The sanctions have been imposed by about 63% of world economic power. He said European’s “willingness to sacrifice” economic connections is particularly noteworthy.

Regarding non-NATO-allied countries, Thiers said the Chinese government has made no overt moves to increase its oil purchases from Russia, but there's been a substantial uptick in smaller-scale "teapot" refineries that may include government involvement. He also noted a recent transfer of surface-to-air missiles from China to Russian-allied Serbia.

Media framing

History professor Karl Krotke-Crandall spoke on the narrative of the "denazification" of Ukraine, which has been pushed by Russia. Though some pundits assumed the tactic was specifically in reference to the Azov Battalion, a neo-Nazi military unit in eastern Ukraine, Krotke-Crandall said it was pulled from the old Soviet playbook that used historical inaccuracies of World War II.

Noting Ukrainians fought on both sides of that war, Krotke-Crandall mentioned that was also the case for Polish people and Russians. Generally, those who sided with the Nazis usually did so "to throw off the yoke of Soviet oppression."

Krotke-Crandall said the Ukrainian military's work with Azov was an attempt for the country to establish itself as a modern democracy. Before anyone in the U.S. attempts to pass judgment, he said they should look at similarities in their nation.

Krotke-Crandall said media outlets who have claimed Putin is playing a game of three-dimensional chess in his information warfare are inaccurate.

"I would argue that he's actually overseeing a game of Hungry Hungry Hippos in which he drops pieces of information waiting for the press to gobble it up in a flurry to distract us from what might be his alternative objectives," Krotke-Crandall said.

He gave the example of increased scrutiny of foreign nationals by the Russian government and its liquidation of a human rights organization which uncovered past Soviet atrocities. Krotke-Crandall said those moves provided cover to Putin's movement of troops into Belarus. More recently, he said media outlets have focused on high-profile individuals who may serve as a distraction to the war.

Krotke-Crandall said the majority of Putin's Feb. 24 address before the invasion focused on NATO expansion, not Ukraine. He said pushing back on "neo-imperialism" through NATO with the incorporation of Nazism was a "hallmark" of Joseph Stalin's propaganda. Even after the Soviet leader's death, the same kind of framing was used against the West. At one point during 1967's Six-Day War, Krotke-Crandall said Soviet media described Israeli leaders as Nazis.

Krotke-Crandall said the message of Russia's Great Patriotic War is a "deliberate scheme to ensure the support" of a captive audience in the country by Putin.

Effects on the Balkans

Currently a Fullbright scholar at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, political science professor and two-time Congressional candidate Carolyn Long explained the war in Ukraine from a Balkan perspective.

Though there have been claims that the war in Ukraine and its impact has resulted in the worst conflict in Europe since World War II, Long pointed to the wars following the disintegration of Yugoslavia and the Kosovo conflict in Serbia during the 1990s.

She noted the vulnerability of western Balkan states, notably Bosnia, Serbia and Kosovo, which have not joined NATO. She said the war in the region following the dissolution of Yugoslavia could be used as a parallel for what Russia aims to do in Ukraine with regard to recapturing lost territory, as evidenced by Serbia's conflicts with Bosnia and Kosovo.

Long said Serbia remains "a staunch ally of Putin," which is reflected in the fact the country hasn't joined European Union sanctions. The country also relies on Russia's energy supplies and receives financing for local media from Russia.

Though Bosnia has aspirations to join NATO, Russia's ambassador to Bosnia said if the latter country joined the organization, the former would see it as a threat. Recently, one of three of Bosnia's presidents who represents the Bosnian Serb population has threatened to withdraw from the country's federation.

The chief concern in the Balkans isn't any direct action Russia may take in the region, but is focused on the spillover that may occur. That could result in leaders taking advantage of the situation, Long said.

"It is a tinderbox. It is where a conflict will spread, not where Russia will invade the Balkans, but Russian invasion of Ukraine creating uncertainty, which may then lead to conflict in the Balkans," Long said.

Book bans: Should libraries remain neutral?

 thevancouver.com/book-bans-should-libraries-remain-neutral

April 27, 2022





On April 5, WSU Vancouver and Fort Vancouver Regional Library librarians joined to discuss prevalent issues of book banning and maintaining intellectual freedom. The event “We Are Not Neutral: A Conversation on Book Bans and Library Values” explored how and why censorship has become widespread in the U.S., and served as the final installment of WSU Vancouver’s library event series “Our Communities: Actions Towards Justice.”

According to the American Library Association, in 2021, the Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 729 challenges to 1,597 individual book titles, many of which deal with subjects like race, gender and sexuality. The top challenged book of the year, Maia Kobabe’s graphic novel “Gender Queer: A Memoir,” has been challenged for its LGBTQ content and alleged sexual explicitness. Other challenged books include Jonathan Evison’s “Lawn Boy” and George M. Johnson’s “All Boys Aren’t Blue,” both of which discuss gender nonconformity and queer sexuality.

So, what happens when a book is challenged, and what does censorship mean for community members in libraries? Jamie Bair, a Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries librarian, said there are three different kinds of censorship – book bans, challenges and soft censorship.

According to Bair, the public library experiences soft censorship often. Soft censorship includes removing specific sections of a challenged book, making decisions about which authors to invite to public speaking events and patrons choosing to remove books from the library of their own volition. According to Maggie Novario, another librarian from Fort Vancouver Regional Library, soft censorship entails not only consequences of large-scale book bans, but underlying social issues as well.

“It’s not just major decisions about taking materials out of access for patrons,” Novario said. “It’s also about smaller, localized efforts to remove books written by people of marginalized communities.”

Book challenges, a common form of censorship, occur when somebody voices their desire to have a book removed because of its content. Often, it is because “a book explores topics of sexuality or explores the lived experiences of racial identity,” as explained by Sam Buechler, WSU Vancouver’s student success library faculty resident. Challenges can lead to soft censorship and even a book being banned entirely. In this case, the institution physically and digitally removes access to specific titles.

In response to the wave of censorship sweeping the country, many librarians are discussing the idea of library neutrality, which, Buechler said, is the long-held idea that libraries are neutral entities that simply provide information without taking a stance on their collection, information or patronage.

“[Neutrality is] just categorically false. As we know, being neutral is in itself a stance. When these challenges come through, and we take a neutral stance, what we are essentially doing is taking the stance [of those whose] voice is doing the challenging,” Buechler said.



Sam Buechler, WSU Vancouver’s student success library faculty resident, explains the issues of practicing censorship within library spaces. *(David Priymak/The VanCougar)*

During the event, participants discussed how libraries can advocate for marginalized people in their communities by creating inclusive spaces, both physically and digitally. Furthermore, providing resources for such groups includes sharing their voices in a library’s collection and wherever possible, according to Sam Lohmann, WSU Vancouver’s reference coordinator and information access librarian.

“[I think it’s important to] be proactive about building a diverse collection and having a written policy explaining the reasons for that, and [to have] plans in place for responding to book challenges when they come up,” Lohmann said.

When concluding their talk, each speaker deemed importance to having access to book titles involving diverse perspectives essential for an adequate learning environment. For those contributing to spaces of higher education, as Novario said, “we are the stewards of intellectual freedom.”

Arabelle May

Arabelle is a senior studying English at WSU Vancouver.



Partnership between Woodland Public Schools and Fort Vancouver Regional Library system results in dedicated library location for Yale Valley residents

[clarkcountytoday.com/youth/partnership-between-woodland-public-schools-and-fort-vancouver-regional-library-system-results-in-dedicated-library-location-for-yale-valley-residents](https://www.clarkcountytoday.com/youth/partnership-between-woodland-public-schools-and-fort-vancouver-regional-library-system-results-in-dedicated-library-location-for-yale-valley-residents)

ClarkCountyToday.com

May 4, 2022



A partnership between The Yale Valley Library District (YVLD), A local library district managed by the Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries (FVRL) and Woodland Public Schools resulted in a dedicated library location right next door to Yale School, Woodland's remote elementary school serving Yale Valley students in grades K-4.

The Yale Valley library was built on land owned by Woodland Public Schools and leased to FVRL to provide this resource to the area

A partnership between The Yale Valley Library District (YVLD), A local library district managed by the Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries (FVRL) and Woodland Public Schools resulted in a dedicated library location right next door to Yale School, Woodland's remote

elementary school serving Yale Valley students in grades K-4. Even with increasing access to broadband internet service, local library systems like YVLD and FVRL provide valuable and needed resources to communities, particularly those in remote areas, throughout Washington state.



The FVRL Yale Valley location is located directly next door to Yale School. Photo courtesy Woodland School District

With the Yale Valley library located a short walk across a school field, Yale’s teachers regularly take their classes to the library so students can learn how to use the many resources offered by the robust FVRL library system. Lesley Miller, senior branch supervisor for both the Yale Valley and Yacolt library locations, guides students through a variety of activities to help familiarize students with how to use a library to find primary resources for research, write papers, and simply access books and other materials.

The Yale Valley library was built on land owned by Woodland Public Schools and leased to FVRL to provide this valuable resource to the area. Prior to the dedicated facility, Woodland Public Schools partnered with YVLD to provide library access within Yale School itself where FVRL librarians would regularly bring requested books for area residents in addition to maintaining a rotating selection of books on shelves located in the school.



Yale library users can use the facility, check out books, and more even when staff isn't present. Photo courtesy Woodland School District

The grand opening of YVLD's Yale Valley location took place on September 2020, providing area residents with access to a dedicated facility offering the ability to check out books, movies, board games, and more in addition to having access to free wireless internet service, printing and copy machines, book-hold requests, and more.

The dedicated facility means residents have even more access to the FVRL's many offerings. "It's not always convenient to go into Vancouver or Woodland to visit a library," said Miller. "By offering book-holding services, our users can request books and other resources either online at home or from within the library itself, with those requested items brought in and held for them."

While not staffed during all of its available hours, area residents can still access the Yale Valley library during its hours of operation using library cards which also serve as security-card check-ins to access the building. "People are often surprised that they can still access the library without support," said Miller. "In addition to immediate access to all the resources, we also provide a self-check station where you can check out and return books, all without staff assistance."

The library provides wireless internet access to patrons with the facility also featuring two dedicated computers for residents to use if they do not have their own devices. Additionally, library users can check out Chromebooks and even wireless internet hotspots to take home, all free-of-charge. “Since internet access can often be relatively sketchy in remote areas, we offer internet access using Wave service, which tends to be both more reliable and faster than many offerings available to our residents,” said Miller. “Community members can also make copies or print documents – every patron receives \$3 worth of free copying and printing services and can even print documents to the library from their home computers over the internet.”



Yale kindergartners listen to a librarian read aloud. Photo courtesy Woodland School District

The Yale Valley Library will also start offering additional services for both youth and adults. “In addition to story time and activities for children, we plan to begin offering programming for adults, too,” said Miller. “Library cards are available for free to the residents of Yale Valley, and I really encourage people to check out our website to learn about all the resources available with a library card where users can download ebooks to their Kindles, borrow board games, and even access free practice tests for the SAT and ACT standardized tests in addition to sample tests for nursing programs and much, much more.”

The opening of the FVRL Yale Valley Library represents a culmination of decades of planning for Miller and many of the residents in the area. “We raised our children out here and have gotten to watch this library develop from the ground up,” she said. “The concept has been in

development for many years so it's been exciting to see it all come together.”

Learn more about the Yale Valley Library District and Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries (FVRL):

The Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries (FVRL) seek to strengthen the communities they serve through knowledge, experiences, and creativity by valuing and empowering all of the citizens whom they serve. You can access all of the FVRL system’s online resources including signing up for a library account, requesting book holds, or even printing from your home device to a local location at the YVLD website located at www.fvrl.org/loc/yale and the FVRL website located at www.fvrl.org.

The FVRL Yale Valley library operates during the following hours of operation:

Unstaffed Hours:

Monday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday-Thursday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday-Sunday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Staffed Hours:

Monday: 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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Learn more about how Woodland Public Schools educates students and serves the community, by visiting the dedicated news webpage at www.woodlandschools.org/news/wsd

Information provided by Woodland School District.

Woodland library project receives \$515,000 state grant Updated 23 hours ago

[columbian.com/news/2022/may/09/woodland-library-project-receives-515000-state-grant](https://www.columbian.com/news/2022/may/09/woodland-library-project-receives-515000-state-grant)

Griffin Reilly



The Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation has received a state capital grant of \$515,000 to support the construction of the new Woodland Community Library. The foundation is a nonprofit that conducts fundraising on behalf of the FVRLibraries system.

The grant announced Friday was included in a list of capital improvement projects approved in the 2022 Washington supplemental capital budget. It's the third state grant the Woodland project has received since 2020, amounting to approximately \$3 million total over that span, according to the foundation's executive director, Rick Smithrud. Several private donors have contributed in recent years, as well.

"We are deeply grateful to the Legislature and the governor for this generous grant," Smithrud said in a press release last week. "Woodland area residents desperately need a larger, more modern library to meet their access to information, technology and meeting space needs."

Woodland, which is located in both Clark and Cowlitz counties, began identifying the need for a new library facility in 2013. Proponents of the new library say the current facility is too small, physically aging and lacking of the technological resources that are needed to properly support the community in the modern era.

In May 2019, Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries settled on a new location at the corner of Goerig Street and Lakeshore Drive near downtown Woodland, which was previously home to the Woodland Funeral Home. As of December 2021, the new facility is planned to occupy approximately 7,500 square feet, about three times the size of the current building.

Smithrud said that the foundation has raised approximately \$5.4 million so far, just short of its \$6 million goal. A timetable for a possible groundbreaking once fundraising is complete has yet to be established.

Additional information about the redesign process and renderings of what the new building could look like are available on FVRLibraries' website:

<https://www.fvrl.org/imagineWoodland>.

Yale Valley library provides needed services to locals

thereflector.com/classifieds/stories/yale-valley-library-provides-needed-services-to-locals,291158



Yale students visit the library to learn about research resources and how libraries work.

courtesy photo

A new library located next to Yale Elementary School has provided residents in the community with expanded resources since it opened in July of last year.

The library was made possible through a partnership between the Yale Valley Regional Library District and Woodland Public Schools.

Lesley Miller, senior branch supervisor for both the Yale Valley and Yacolt libraries, said the library got its start as a handful of bookshelves in the lobby of the school. Ran by the Fort Vancouver Library District, the Yale Valley Community Library (YVCL) has since grown to its own building.

“Over years of partnership, work, and fundraising, they were able to get this building up,” Miller said. “For our community, it offers the availability to come into an actual library in their backyard and not have to go all the way into Vancouver or Woodland.”

Miller said the library provides more than just books. Patrons are able to access online opportunities with their library cards. It also features two computers and a copy machine, Chromebooks that can be rented out, and the ability to put books on hold with the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District website. Library cards are free of charge for Yale Valley residents. The project was first proposed in 2003.

“It started with a bookmobile, which still runs in Skamania County, and (the YVCL) evolved to the bookshelves inside the school, and now here we are in the final big, beautiful, new building,” she said. “It’s been a process over many years. Our grand opening was in September 2021.”

Miller said the library is important because the area is rural and remote, so patrons have a guaranteed opportunity to hold books online and pick them up. Since the internet in the area is not always reliable, she said people can also use the wireless internet in the parking lot for free. Miller said people who come to the area on vacation can’t always access the internet and those who live in Cougar don’t have any internet access at all, so the library aims to help in that regard.

Those who don’t have printers can also come to the library to print out documents.

She said the library has greatly benefited the children in Yale Valley.

“It has been amazing so far,” Miller said. “(Students) come over once a month to browse and look, and we talk to them about the different things available with a library card. We have a story time, and now that things are opening back up after the pandemic, we’ll open up our children’s programs as well as adult programs. We’ll have adult book discussions, children’s story time, and things like that during the summer.”

Adults can go online to fvrl.org to practice their SAT and ACT tests, along with nursing tests and other opportunities, Miller said.

The library recently started its Mango program which helps people learn over 70 languages. People with a library card are also able to access the building during specific unstaffed hours, she said.

The Yale Valley Community Library is located at 11700 Lewis River Road in Ariel.

Staffed hours are from 2 to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, and from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday. Unstaffed hours run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday through Sunday.

Library cards for those who do not reside in Yale Valley cost \$11 for a three-month library card and \$44 per person for an annual one. For households, it costs \$28.75 every three months or \$115 annually.

The library can be reached at 360-906-5000.

Have a question for the seller? [Send an email](#)

Posted 5/9/2022

https://tdn.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/woodland-community-library-enters-final-fundraising-stretch-for-new-building/article_d7406a2e-cfb4-11ec-b109-5f479653d240.html

TOP STORY EDITOR'S PICK

Woodland Community Library enters final fundraising stretch for new building

Brennen Kauffman

May 10, 2022



Senior Library Assistant Tammy Trebra shelves returned books at the Woodland Community Library in Woodland on Tuesday. The Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation is in the final stages of a \$6 million fundraiser to build an improved library in Woodland.

Katelyn Metzger

Brennen Kauffman

WOODLAND — Efforts to build a new and improved building for the Woodland Community Library have shifted into the final phases of fundraising with money coming in.



Cowlitz County commissioners OK Woodland-area rezone Tuesday to match nearby land uses

Katie Fairbanks

Woodland’s library is managed by the Fort Vancouver Regional Library. The Clark County library district has been pushing to move Woodland’s library into a new building for more than five years.

The project received \$515,000 from the state Legislature earlier this year — one of the largest Cowlitz County projects included in the supplemental capital budget.

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation held a Love Your Library fundraiser April 24, which raised an additional \$34,000 for the project from members of the Woodland community. Donors paid for dinners and bid on silent auction prizes while they saw a presentation from Hacker Architects about the design of the new building.



This proposed rendering is of the new lobby for the Woodland Community Library. The Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation is in the final stages of a \$6 million fundraiser to build an improved library in Woodland.

Brennen Kauffman

“We’re hoping that now that we’re this close to the end goal, more people will come forward,” said Rick Smithrud, executive director of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation.

People are also reading...

- 1 **3A District Baseball: Kelso walks off over Timberline**
- 2 **Longview officers find 185,000 fentanyl pills in largest local seizure of fentanyl pills**
- 3 **Kelso man charged with 29 child sexual abuse felonies in Cowlitz County Superior Court**
- 4 **Report: Cowlitz County death rate up 18% in 2021, COVID-19 third-leading cause**

The recent funding brings the Woodland building project up to roughly \$5.4 million of the \$6 million expected budget. The current plan is to build a 7,500-square-foot building, which would triple the current library’s size and provide outdoor reading spaces and larger dedicated areas for different age groups visiting the library.

‘We will be able to do more and promote more’

The Woodland Community Library has been at its Park Street location since 1926.

Library director Jennifer Hauan said the historic nature of the building presented challenges. The ground floor has four outlets available for public use, all of which are in high demand from visitors. Upstairs, the limited room created even more challenges for noise and access.

“The second floor is where we have our children’s collection, the public bathroom, the teen area. Not everyone can get up the stairs and there isn’t the space to build an elevator,” Hauan said.

The current library does not have any meeting rooms for library events. Hauan said for many of the events the library held pre-COVID, they had to rent space next door at the Woodland Community Center and work around the other groups that relied on the community center.

The first pre-design study and fundraising for a new library building took place in 2014. Fort Vancouver bought land at the corner of Goerig Street and Lakeshore Drive in 2017 to be the home of the new building.

“People will see the building as they come into Woodland,” Hauan said. “We will be able to do more and promote more as a result of people being more aware of our services.”

Fort Vancouver Regional Library spokesman Tak Kendrick said the new building will include expanded computer options and resources for people who don’t have internet access at home. Teenagers and younger readers will have separate areas and book collections.

Kendrick said architects soon will move from the mock-up photos to blueprints, which will allow them to go out to bid on the project. In the meantime, he said some work will be done to prepare the Goerig Street site.



Woodland braces for growth as eight, four-story apartment complexes are proposed

Hayley Day

“We’re getting closer to doing work on the property this year. It’s not going to be fully built but we can start making some noticeable changes,” Kendrick said.

Smithrud said the library foundation soon will be approaching businesses and individuals with naming opportunities for parts of the new library in exchange for donations.

By Brennen Kauffman

Reporter
