

Lafayette Public Library Board meeting minutes

Remote meeting via Zoom Conference

November 8, 2021

I. **Call to order** at 6:31 pm

Present: Chair Olivia Ameigh, Vice Chair Susan Curtis, Secretary Dave Belin, Randy Bender, Jess Gribble, Ed Knight, Jody Tracy, Denice Walker, Autumn Warrington, Library Director Melissa Hisel, Assistant Director Scott Foley, Circulation Manager Brandon Cox, Programs & Engagement Manager Dominique Burns, and City Council Liaison Tim Barnes.

II. **Library Mission:** “The Lafayette Public Library brings community, information, and ideas together to inspire learning, literacy, and discovery.”

III. **Comments from Public:** Ameigh read an email from David Dunfield, 606 E. Cleveland St, Lafayette, CO. Dunfield commented on the recommendation from HRC regarding the Mary Miller mural; concluding that evidence of Mary Miller as a racist is circumstantial at best. A second comment was made by Frank Archuleta, 209 W. Chester St, Lafayette, CO, who supported the removal of the Mary Miller mural because of her and her family’s mistreatment of various racial minorities, particularly Latinos, in Lafayette.

IV. **Approval of Minutes from October 2021 Meeting:** Curtis moved to accept the minutes as corrected from the October 2021 meeting; Ameigh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. **Staff Update:** Hisel introduced Cox and Burns. Burns was asked about the gender statistics presented in the Engagement section in the report; Burns reported that the gender statistics come directly from Facebook and Instagram. Burns also reported on various educational outreach efforts, including virtual homework tutors. Hisel reported on the Student One access to Lafayette library databases for BVSD students. The partnership will provide database access for nearly 5,000 more students. She also updated the board about several newly hired staff positions at the library, a state grant, a vaccination clinic (December 18, 2021), and a compensation study that the City will be undertaking. The recent City budget process resulted in funding for the library for strategic planning (including a community survey in conjunction with the Arts & Culture committee), funding to hybridize entry-level positions for greater flexibility and funding for new equipment in the Maker Space. Cox reported to the board about the changes to the computer lab, including switching management software. Foley told the board about the book for the Lafayette Reads program, which is “On Immunity” by Eula Biss; registration for Lafayette Reads starts on December 13, 2021.

VI. **Library Organizational Realignment & Reorganization:** The topic of organizational realignment was addressed by Hisel. The library will be changing some of the organizational charts and departments, as well as updating job descriptions and responsibilities. The reorganization will allow the library to dedicate staff positions and hours to the areas with greatest need, both internally and externally. The restructuring will begin in January 2022.

VII. **Discussion: HRC Recommendation for Removal of Mary Miller Mural:** The board revisited the issue of the HRC recommendation to remove the mural of Mary Miller on the south side of the library building. The discussion was introduced with the idea that the Library Board does not need to offer a definitive stance one way or another on the removal of the Mary Miller mural. Hisel noted that motions and recommendations from other boards and commissions will all be presented to City Council together. The board discussed various issues related to the HRC recommendation, including some of the following points:

- The Library Board might be beyond its purview in making a definitive yes/no recommendation on removal of the mural and that the final decision rests with City Council.
- The amount and variety of information related to this issue is broad and difficult to fully digest.
- The mural is a public art piece that happens to be located on the wall of the library building. The original purpose of the public art piece did not gather input from the broader community.
- The role of libraries in the community and that the job of the Library Board should be to serve as an archival resource for the community around this issue.
- The extent to which the City plans to collect other public input on this issue.
- People's flaws should be mentioned alongside their contributions, and that the educational focus should be on current diverse values of the Lafayette community.
- The fact that the mural is on the library building is relevant and should be reflective of the library as an educational institution. The education component of the mural is essential to understanding the full history of Mary Miller.
- Barnes recognized Hisel for her role in the discussions around this issue and gave the Library Board some perspective on the general position of the current City Council on this issue.

MOTION: Ameigh motioned to appoint a smaller working group to synthesize the comments and input from tonight's meeting, and to craft a more formal recommendation and motion to the City Council, to be discussed at a December meeting. Knight seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ameigh, Knight, Tracy, and Belin volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

VIII. **Foundation Liaison Update.** Bender shared the current balance of the Friends account; the next book sale will be November 13 to 21, 2021.

IX. **City Council Liaison Report:** Barnes again thanked Hisel for her work. The new City Council will be seated after the election results are certified. The Comprehensive Plan will be accepted at the next Council meeting. Updating the City Code will be the next step in implementing the Comprehensive Plan. The Multi-Modal Transportation Plan is ongoing.

X. **Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items:** December 13, 2021, at 6:30 pm, via Zoom. Agenda item will be the recommendation and motion to City Council regarding the HRC recommendation to remove the Mary Miller mural from the library building.

