



ZION-BENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Diversity and Inclusion COMMITTEE MEETING

Zion-Benton Public Library District
Meeting Room A
Tuesday March 5, 2019 at 6:00 PM

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:07pm.

Present: Jacqueline Holmes, Mary Martin, Beverly Mull, Amy Onan, Garnet Miller (staff), Mariel Patino (staff), and Mikael Jacobsen (staff).

Visitor Comments.

- None

Discussion of a proposed Drag Queen Story Time event.

- Mikael Jacobsen distributed messages received via Facebook about this proposed event.
- Garnet Miller, Youth Services Coordinator, and Mariel Patino, Youth Services Associate, presented the reasoning behind hosting a story time featuring a Drag Queen. Ms. Miller and Ms. Patino asserted that the program will not be sexual or risqué. The program is designed to highlight the acceptance of difference, dovetailing with the Library's Equal Access Policy.
- The program itself will take place during the Authors After Hours event 4/27/19. It will be from 6:30pm to 7:00pm. The program will be placed in the Youth Services area of the Library. It will be aimed at 4-8 year olds.
- Board Members asked questions around demand for this type of program, whether the Library believed it was appropriate for our District, and how the Library plans to address concerns from residents.
- Library staff will be writing up an FAQ and talking points for staff and Board members. The Library will approach the Lake County Sherriff Department for a Deputy to attend the event as additional security.
- The Board members indicated that this was decision best left to Library staff that they trust though they have concerns around the reaction to the event though not necessarily the event itself.
- Mr. Jacobsen said that he believed that the program should continue as planned and Library staff will take every step possible to make it a successful event. Mr.



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Jacobsen also said that the Library will take steps to create a more comprehensive strategic direction for our diversity programming efforts.

- Following the event, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee will debrief with staff and discuss next steps.

Review the Black History Month events and other information.

- Mr. Jacobsen presented statistics from this year's Black History Month programming, displays, and other interactives. Overall, it was a good effort though more can and should be done.
- The Board and staff will brainstorm ideas to add strong content to Black History Month.
- Mr. Jacobsen described how he is working with the Park District to create a shared online calendar that can be used for BHM next year.

Ms. Holmes asked Mr. Jacobsen about the Latino Festival.

- This program is scheduled for August and is still very much in the planning phases. It is being designed to create a space for the Zion-Benton Latinx culture to celebrate their varied cultures.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

The next meeting will be scheduled for May 7, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by
Mikael Jacobsen