

# ORCAS ISLAND LIBRARY DISTRICT



## Library Board Retreat Minutes

February 16, 2021

Library Board President Teresa Patrick called the Board Retreat to order at 11:38 a.m. in the Orcas Island Library Community Room. Also attending were Trustees Jens Kruse, Madeline Sheplor, and Sam Blackman; Library Director Phil Heikkinen; staff members Jenny DeGroot, Lovella Daoust, Rhett Ariston, Tony Ghazel, Holly King, and Janet Marlow; and Friends Board President Ken Gibbs. All attendance was by Zoom due to the revised OPMA in response to COVID-19.

Welcome and Introductions: Teresa welcomed the attendees and asked each of them to introduce themselves and name one or two books that they enjoyed most in 2020. The list of books was compiled and shared with all attendees.

### Review of Strategic Directions and Core Service Values:

- Phil presented the existing Library Goals and Objectives with the group. Jens stated that he felt that the three goals are still appropriate, and that Goal #2 of using the Library as a community gathering space had been transformed into an online platform over the last year. The attendees agreed that the existing goals still seemed to be appropriate.
- Phil presented the existing Core Service Values. Teresa and Jens asked if it could be printed and posted at the Library.
- The Board asked all attending members to review the Strategic Directions and Core Service Values and think of any edits that may be needed at this time, and the list would either be revised or reaffirmed at the March Board Meeting.

2020 at the Orcas Library in Review: The group discussed the Library's successes and failures at adapting to the COVID-19 challenges in 2020. Specific points included:

- Children's Library Jenny DeGroot discussed the adaptation for the Summer Reading Program.
- Adult Services Librarian Rhett Ariston said that the past year showed the Library's ability to adapt and learn new technologies.
- Library Associate Lovella Daoust said that she was happy to see how compliant our patrons were with the rules involved in offering services during COVID-19 and that being able to offer services seemed to be a positive for our patrons' mental health.
- Administrative Services Coordinator Janet Marlow said that with the First Fridays Book Club she sees the mental-health benefits of even remote programs and providing isolated individuals the opportunity to have social interactions.
- IT Administrator Tony Ghazel highlighted that, despite the shutdown, the Library has had a large amount of network traffic. He said that WiFi users and online searches were higher than ever before.

Madeline said that she would love to have snapshots of patrons holding up signs about some of these successes, showing what the Library means to them. Teresa said that there seems to be lessons to be learned from the availability of resources online, citing the example of the success of Prime Time Family Reading Program being held online, allowing people to connect.

Break from 12:55 p.m. to 1:05 p.m.

50 2021 at the Orcas Library: The group brainstormed what the priorities should be for this year.  
51 Specific ideas included:

- 52 • Identifying and reaching out to underserved community members
- 53 • Create and hang a Core Values poster in the Library
- 54 • Create and publicize a Library Snapshot of 2020, along with a look ahead at 2021
- 55 • Enhancing outdoor space for outdoor events and general daily use
- 56 • Disaster planning & possible generator
- 57 • Possible large gatherings in 2021 depending on public health developments
- 58 • Increased web presence, including social media
- 59 • Additional book clubs, perhaps with specific topics/themes/genres
- 60 • Donor estate planning
- 61 • Adding public computer access to available services during open hours
- 62 • Cross training of staff—identify additional areas of need and interest
- 63 • Maintaining and advertising flexibility of picking up library materials outside of open hours
- 64 • Idea of stair-stepping services from where we currently are, slowly expanding core services
- 65 in addition to new programs/services—incremental and sustainable
- 66 • IT support: specific hours for phone, Zoom, or in-person appointments; possibly using
- 67 student volunteer help
- 68 • Specific program Ideas:
  - 69 ○ Know Your Islanders (Zoom)
  - 70 ○ Tai Chi outside in the south patio area
  - 71 ○ Community Read (suggested book: “Stamped,” which has modified versions for all
  - 72 ages)
  - 73 ○ Movie Club – whether streaming together or watch and discuss like a book club
  - 74 ○ Local exercise classes (Zoom)
  - 75 ○ “Silent” Book Club – reading at the same time, interspersed with sharing thoughts
  - 76 and reading suggestions

77 Teresa thanked everyone for their ideas and participation and asked that if anyone had further  
78 ideas or comments, to please send them to Phil.  
79

80 **Adjournment:** Having completed the agenda, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 2:00  
81 p.m.  
82

83 Submitted by Janet Marlow.

84 Approved: \_\_\_\_\_