

RANGEVIEW LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
May 8, 2024

a) Call to Order

The special meeting of the Rangeview Library District (d.b.a. "Anythink Libraries") Board of Trustees was called to order at Anythink Wright Farms at 5:09 p.m. A quorum was present.

Trustees Attending

Lynne Fox, Savannah Vickery (Virtual), Suzie Brundage, Gretchen Lapham

Trustees Absent

Trisha Kramer

Staff Attending

Mark Fink, Executive Director; Susan Dobbs, Assistant Director; Logan Macdonald, Director of Products and Technology; Nan Fisher, Finance Manager; Justin Sager, Construction Project Manager

Guests

Elizabeth Dauer, Legal Counsel

b) Additions or Changes to the Agenda: None

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Trustee Fox and seconded by Trustee Lapham. Motion carried.

c) Public Comment

Kendra Visioli, stated that she is a resident of the Reunion community in Commerce City and would like to see an Anythink library branch in this community; she noted that there is interest to start an Options program in collaboration with a library, which is a homeschool enrichment program offered by Aurora Public Schools. The Options program provides support and resources for families who choose to homeschool their children, without taking control of the primary education.

Fink said that Anythink is aware of the growth in the Reunion community and that it is planning to include some library-related questions in an upcoming community survey.

Fink asked for her contact information and said that he would communicate with her directly.

d) Approval of the Minutes of the April 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2024 Board Meeting as presented by Trustee Lapham and seconded by Trustee Fox. Motion carried.

e) Review of the April 2024 Financials, Nan Fisher

Fisher gave an overall review of the April 2024 Financials.

Since this was a special meeting, the Board decided to wait to approve the April 2024 Financials until the July 2024 Board meeting.

f) Old Business: None

g) New Business

i. Receive Major Gifts Assessment Presentation by Kimberly Sherwood

Consultant Kimberly Sherwood presented conclusions and recommendations for the Major Gifts Assessment she conducted for Anythink in late 2023 and early 2024.

Sherwood shared that the purpose of the study was to gather insights and perspectives regarding the Anythink Foundation and the Library system's capacity to strengthen its philanthropic work, primarily focused on major gifts, and to test assumptions about Foundation's case, organizational priorities including the Nature Library, and the effectiveness of current approaches, all of which are central to driving fundraising strategy.

Sherwood noted that the challenge question Anythink sought to answer was:

"What will it take for Anythink to expand its major gift fundraising work through the foundation to support strategic program initiatives like the Nature Library, beginning with the Nature Library?"

Sherwood presented the Research Design to gauge the feasibility of achieving the following goals:

1. Understand Anythink's current fundraising acumen and capacity

2. Gather data about economic and philanthropic trends in the state and the community
3. Understand people's attitudes about Anythink and the Nature Library
4. Investigate the viability of a \$5 - \$10 million gap goal
5. Identify potential campaign leadership
6. Explore any potential roadblocks and solutions for mitigating them in order for a campaign to succeed

Here are Sherwood's conclusions and recommendations, which were based on the stakeholder feedback, an analysis of current fundraising acumen, the community's perception, and the external environment:

1. Conclusion:

- a. Anythink and the Anythink Foundation could and should strengthen its philanthropic work in general and pursue funding opportunities for the Nature Library, specifically.

2. Recommendations:

- a. Laser Focus on Marketing, Communication and Development: Integrate development and communications into one organizational function as they are mutually beneficial functions each of which supports the other; refine the fundraising portfolio to align with the emerging strategic plan, long-range financial plan, and the libraries' funding model
- b. Rethink and innovate the existing Anythink Foundation for long-term philanthropic engagement and impact
- c. Seek institutional support for the Nature Library in the short-term
- d. Strengthen internal support for both the Nature Library and the Anythink Foundation
- e. Strengthen and sustain relationships with the City of Thornton and Adams County
- f. Leverage Community Engagement project to deepen patron engagement for Anythink Libraries in general and the Nature Library, specifically.

Trustee Lapham commended her efforts, and would like to see this strategy take off, she feels that the landscape and the cost of living for Adams County in 2024 as opposed to 2017 has changed drastically.

Trustee Vickery mentioned that the cost of living in all areas can have an impact on how to adequately proceed with fundraising.

h) Capital Projects Update, Justin Sager

Sager presented updates for the Thornton Community Center Library project, noting it is proceeding on time and on budget.

Sager said that the Nature Library project scope and budget are also on track. Sager's focus is on securing approvals and permits from the City of Thornton in order to begin construction on the site in August 2024. Sager is also working with the general contractor to lock in subcontractors to work on the project.

i) Executive Director Report, Mark Fink

Fink announced that the Anythink York Street branch will permanently close next Friday, May 17th and staff will be redeployed to the new Thornton Community Center Library in the fall.

Fink said that we are continuing our community engagement work with Slover Linett to obtain feedback from stakeholders as well as setting up locations in the community to begin the intercept interview survey process in mid-June.

Trustee Lapham asked what this community engagement looks like. Fink said that Slover Linett staff are visiting locations across Adams County in mid-June to ask community members questions to get their perceptions about public libraries.

Trustee Fox suggested that we contact the King Soopers at 104th and Chambers to get feedback from Reunion community residents.

Trustee Vickery asked if this community engagement work was the original scope of what Slover Linett was intending to do. Fink responded, "yes, this is the type work that they do, and their work is a community check-in" about library services rather than the start of a new strategic plan.

Fink also mentioned that a draft of the DEI Strategic Plan will be presented by Tangible Development to the Directors and Managers on Tuesday, May 14th and then shared with all staff next Wednesday, May 15th. Also, a follow up survey to all staff will be sent out to get their comments and feedback about the draft plan, and to help confirm plan priorities.

Fink said that staff has requested in-person training sessions regarding microaggressions. In response, Anythink will be offering several in-person sessions for all staff in June and August. The first training is with the Leadership Team on Thursday, May 30th. The team will provide feedback to the instructors to help customize the training for all staff.

Fink announced that SB 24-216 was approved by the legislature and is on its way to the governor for his signature. The legislation provides protections for library workers,

establishes standards for the request for reconsideration process for public libraries, and provides protections against censorship of content in libraries.

Fink spoke about working with the Anythink Foundation to revitalize the Board of Directors and get the organization focused on fundraising in support of Anythink. Trustee Fox said that she believes that the timing of focusing on campaigning is good. Fink observed that we have a lot of work to do, as well as a great deal of opportunity as well.

j) **Legal Counsel Report:** No updates

k) **For the Good of the Order**

Trustee Fox said that she attended the poetry event at Anythink Wright Farms with Kerri Joy. She said that two friends from Denver actually contacted her to go to this event. It was very exciting to have them come to Anythink Wright Farms and the event was truly amazing.

l) **Executive Session**

Executive Session commenced at 6:34 p.m.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) to discuss Executive Director Review Process by Trustee Fox and seconded by Trustee Lapham. Motion carried.

Executive Session ended at 7:10 p.m.

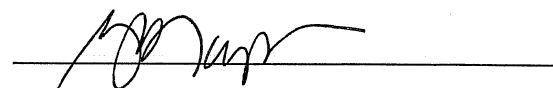
m) **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.

A motion was made to adjourn by Trustee Fox and seconded by Trustee Lapham. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Boyer
Recorder



Acting Secretary of the Board
Rangeview Library District