

**MINUTES
LAS VEGAS-CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
March 9, 2023
(Approved April 20, 2023)**

The Board of Trustees of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District met in regular session at the West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, Nevada, at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 9, 2023.

Present: Board: B. Wilson, Chair N. Waugh
E. Foyt J. Melendrez
K. Rogers J. Jiron
F. Ortiz K. Whiteley
K. Benavidez

Counsel: G. Welt

Absent:

Staff: Kelvin Watson, Executive Director
Numerous Staff

Guests: Melvin Green
Emanuele Arguelles

The meeting began at 5:03 p.m.

Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance (Item I.) All members listed present above represent a quorum. Appendix A. Chair Wilson led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment (Item II.) None.

Agenda (Item III.) Trustee Rogers moved to approve the Agenda. Trustee Ortiz second the motion.

There was no opposition and the motion carried.

Approval of Proposed Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meetings on February 9, 2023. (Item IV.) Trustee Melendrez moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on February 9, 2023.

There was no opposition and the motion carried.

Chair's Report Progress update and Board discussion regarding the Chair Wilson reported that a working group between the Board of Trustees (Library District) and the Foundation was created last month, to build a new working relationship. Chair Wilson asked Trustee Whiteley to give a brief update on the progress made for the working group.

**Foundation
Committee working
group
(Item V.)**

Trustee Whiteley reported that the working group has identified a consultant who will do a deep dive and go over best practices in the industry, to help create a good working partnership.

**Library Reports
(Item VI.)**

**Executive Director's
Report
(Item VI.A.)**

Director Watson pointed out events he participated in:

CCSD Principal for a day at Liberty High School. He was able to tour the school, meet the staff, and spoke to an Air Force JROTC class.

Participated in Nevada Reading Week for the 2nd year at Divich Elementary to read books to several classes. Read to two 2nd grade classes, one 4th grade class, and one kindergarten class. Trustee Jiron thanked Director Watson, Matt McNally, Nina Guevara, Melissa Ramos, and Shana Harrington for their participation.

**Library Operations,
Security Reports
and Monthly
Statistics
(Item VI.A.1.a)**

No questions.

**Branding and
Marketing Report
and Electronic
Resources Statistics
(Item VI.A.2.a.)**

No questions.

**Community
Engagement Report
and Monthly
Statistics
(Item VI.A.2.b.)**

No questions.

**Development and
Planning Report
(Item VI.A.2.c.)**

No questions.

**Information
Technology Report
(Item VI.A.2.d.)**

No questions.

**Financial Services
Report
(Item VI.A.3.a.)**

No questions.

**General Services
Report**

John Vino, General Services Director and Floresto Cabias, Chief Financial Officer went over the timeline outline for the West Las Vegas

(Item VI.A.3.b.)

project. (Timeline attached)

Trustee Rogers stated that he met with the team and they reviewed the last two or three construction projects to look at all the milestones to give the update for the Board, which will get Board approval on those items as the project is moving. Trustee Rogers reiterated that everything is in line with what progresses in previous new library construction projects and ahead of the schedule within some of those milestones. Mr. Vino says This project is in a better position than with East Las Vegas. He is hoping for the final contracts to be brought to the Board sometime around August or September and then groundbreaking in early fall.

Trustee Ortiz stated that the procedures were done incorrectly. He stated the Board of Trustees should've been presented information to have the items voted on to know the projected cost. He also mentioned that he was unsatisfied with how the timeline was presented and asked at the last minute that an agenda item be presented in order to have a conversation because it violates the open meeting laws. Trustee Rogers replied to Trustee Ortiz that this process is the same as others. The information for the budget will be brought to the Board the same way it has always been in previous construction processes. He wanted to be clear that this process is no different than any other and the Board is being made aware of everything. Trustee Ortiz responded that the agenda item should not be under consent, but under the regular agenda item and that the public should have the ability to agree or object. He says it has been buried under the consent agenda, not allowing public discussion. Chair Wilson responded to Trustee Ortiz that he was not being truthful with his comment. He mentioned that a consent agenda is standard operating rules of order and that every Trustee is asked before the consent agenda is heard, if there is anything they'd like to pull off the consent Agenda for discussion. Also, public comments are done before the Consent agenda and anyone can sign up to speak on any item on the Consent Agenda during public comments which is before the Consent Agenda is voted on. Trustee Rogers stated that when the time comes for this to be brought to the Board, it will be under the Regular Agenda for discussion.

Trustee Whiteley mentioned that she feels very informed and appreciates the continual updates that are given. She also states she has no concerns with the way the process is going thus far and trust the staff to take the appropriate steps. Trustee Foyt agreed with Trustee Whiteley.

**Human Resources
Report
(Item VI.A.3.c.)**

No questions.

Chair Wilson accepted the Library Reports.

**Unfinished Business
(Item VII.)** None.

**New Business
(Item VIII.)**

**Consent Agenda
(Item VIII.A.)** Trustee Ortiz moved to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Whiteley second the motion.

There was no opposition and the motion carried.

**Discussion and possible Board action regarding authorization to extend the appointment of the District's current auditor, HintonBurdick, CPAs and Advisors, for one year, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. .
(Item VIII.A.1.)**

No questions.

**Regular Agenda
(Item VIII.B.)** None.

**Announcements
(Item X.)**

First Annual Teen Empowerment Summit on March 11, 2023 at Whitney Library, 5175 E. Tropicana Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89122 for ages 12-18.

Chalk it Up! Summerlin Library Chalk Art & Music Festival on March 25, 2023 10:00AM-2:00PM, 1771 Inner Circle Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89134.

The April Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 5:00pm. Location: Clark County Library, 1401 E Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89119.

The May Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 5:00pm. Location: West Las Vegas Library, 951 W Lake Mead Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89106.

The June Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 5:00pm. Location: Clark County Library, 1401 E Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89119.

**Public Comment
(Item X.)**

Eboni Nance, Executive Assistant, read two written public comments into the record, received via email:

"My name is Mya Harvey who resides at 6439 Glory Rise CT, Las Vegas NV 89142. Unfortunately I'm unable to attend tonight's meeting however I still want my voice to be heard. What we allow is what will continue. Commitment and communication fail the day we become silent of things that matter. I demand we rescind Kyle Rittenhouse's invitation to speak at an event at East Las Vegas Library! I say NO to white supremacists, they will NOT be welcomed nor tolerated in the city of Las Vegas!"

"To whom it may concern,

My name is Katelin Provost and I will not be able to attend tomorrow's board meeting, but want my comment submitted. I was recently informed that the East Las Vegas Library intends to host a Mass CCW event titled "Guns in the Library" and has invited an acquitted murderer, Kyle Rittenhouse, to speak. Though I value our first amendment rights to free speech, I do not believe that guns belong in our libraries, and I do not believe this is the message you want to send our community. Kyle Rittenhouse murdered two people. Being used as a political pawn to endorse the use of guns at protests to kill people who disagree with you is abhorrent. I am appalled at the event. I am appalled that the Library district had agreed to allow this event. And I am asking that you strongly reconsider.

Thank you,"

Shelby Swart- 3925 Aspen Cove St, Las Vegas, NV 89129 "Thank you, Director Watson, Chair Wilson and Trustees. I am Shelby Swart. I live here in Las Vegas at [inaudible]. Recently, I was disgusted to see an event promoted as Guns in the Library hosted at the East Las Vegas branch. I was even more appalled to see that Kyle Rittenhouse would be a special guest of the instructor. The library is a public space open for all Las Vegans to use and to allow an event like this, featuring a man who took two lives in the name of white supremacy, is to tell the people who rely on the library services daily that you don't value their safety or their lives. Killer vigilantes should not be afforded a platform, least of all in a space that is treasured by children and their families. It is your responsibility to ensure that the library remains a safe haven of learning in our city, not a stage for a man who was best known for shooting three people and getting away with it. Thank you."

Laura Martin- 4009 Cotton Seed Ct., North Las Vegas, NV 89031 "Thank you. My name is Laura Martin. I'm the Executive Director of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada. We are a statewide social justice organization working to build a more fair just Nevada that puts people and planet first. Sorry, my address [inaudible]. We like the East Las Vegas Library. We've hosted bill signings there with the governor, movie screenings for people with DACA, and if you drove past the East Las Vegas Library on Bonanza last summer, you would have seen our public art installation highlighting the faces of the people who work at the library and live in the community on the side of the building. In October 2022, we sent in paperwork to the East Las Vegas

Community Center requesting use of their parking lot for an early vote celebration for first time voters. This is something we do every election. It has food and it has mariachi and it's just a nonpartisan celebration of any and everybody would be a first-time voter in that election. The East Las Vegas library denied our request and said our event was too political. However, they did allow Senator Catherine Cortez Masto to host the political early vote event in that same place to promote her reelection. It's clear that the East Las Vegas library can pick and choose who uses their facilities, which we were fine with at the time, but to learn that the Library District is now saying they cannot deny anyone who fills out appropriate paperwork, including concealed carry instructors who are known to present racist, anti- Black slides or armed vigilantes who attend Black Lives Matter rallies, armed and eventually killing multiple people. What is next for the Library District, approving a springtime for Hitler celebration? Have some morals and ethics. Guns don't belong in the library, and neither do classes that teach people to conceal them there. The Library District must act and show the residents of East Las Vegas you do care about their safety. Thank you."

Nathaniel Phillips- 1412 E Carson St., Las Vegas NV 89101 "Good evening, Trustees and Director. My name is Nathaniel Phillips. My address is [inaudible]. I'll try and keep this as concise and to the point as possible, but I just got off work recently. I'm an elementary school teacher on the east side. I also live within walking distance of the East Las Vegas Library. I'm usually running there because I'm perpetually late to things, but I'm delighted that I get to live so close to what is really the flagship library in our community and one that is so important to people who look like me and the folks who are sitting behind me. I want to try and say things that other folks are not going to say. But to my knowledge, so far, the only response that the library, besides what has been said, the other response from the District to this event happening, is that we condone racism. Maybe 50 or 60 years ago that might have been a meaningful or substantive response, but it's not enough these days because we don't condone racism but avowed racists are coming to the East Las Vegas Library. They will be there. I think some of them would want to bring their guns. I know that in 2020, when our country was engaged in the most expansive social justice and protest movement in our nation's history after the death of George -- murder of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, this Library District, one of the largest and most diverse signed on to the statement of race and social equity of the Urban Libraries Council, or whatever it's called and one of those pledges that we all pledged to was to eliminate racial and social equity barriers in library program services, policies and practices. And one of the ways that we can do that is actually taking a firm stance against fascism coming into our community and providing a platform for people who love a young person who thought it would be a fun field trip to go enact violence in a community that he did not belong to. I also want to personally besiege the members of color, the Trustees of color on this Board to think about what impact this going to have on other bipod people in our community. It has been said that the facilitator of the concealed weapons classes, he's an equal opportunity racist, but that's not

actually how racism works. Just because you are racist or have racist slides about multiple groups, even if you're a minority, that doesn't take away the fact that it is still racist and that you are engaging in racism. So I'm sure it violates well, let me take that back. The other response from the Library District is that you have updated your rental policies to adhere to the recommendations provided by the State Equal Rights Commission or something like that. Again, that is an impotent, if not an incredibly enfeeble response to a valid fascist; people who have killed people, people who have put things on their slides, like make sure you shoot babies when you're around black people, because you're sure to hit a gang member. I don't understand how we can sit up here and debate this. So the Library District actually does have the power to prevent hate speech, to prevent racism on its properties and to not do that. I understand it's a public space, anyone can rent and reserve it. But we actually have tools of preventing hate speech at our libraries the same way we prevent guns at our libraries. And that's a whole other issue. It seems that there are pockets of our community who are so ferociously adamant about being able to bring a deadly weapon to our library campus. So again, if you care about people not dying, if you care about actually upholding your statement on race and social equity, let's find a way to prevent this event from happening and especially in the heart of Las Vegas, in a black and brown community. Thank you very much."

Nephi Khaliki- 2800 S Highland Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89109 "Good evening. My name is Nephi Khaliki. I'm at [inaudible]. I'm a 29-year resident of Las Vegas. There are many conversations that are difficult to have. An officer notifying a stranger that their son has been killed by a drunk driver. A father telling her son that someone killed their mother for the contents of her purse. As the organizers of the CCW event at East Las Vegas Library, we are self-defense instructors, who dedicate our lives to stopping those things I just mentioned from ever happening. The responsibility for addressing the mindset and guiding the actions of gun owners in our community lies with us as instructors. We recognize that Kyle Rittenhouse is a difficult discussion. It is one that needs to be had. We cannot learn from things like this unless we talk about it. We want the District and the public to know that our intention in having this event is to bring about change. As hard as this conversation is, it is our responsibility as instructors to have that conversation. And we would ask people to trust us to do our jobs and to bring about change. Thank you."

Shanzeh Aslam- 1012 Windy Ferrell Avenue, North Las Vegas, NV 89081 "Board of Trustees, my name is Shanzeh Aslam. My address is [inaudible]. I am the Economic Justice Program Manager of the Progressive Leadership Alliance in Nevada, a social justice organization committed to uplifting the voices of our most marginalized and directly impacted communities. It is horrifying that this library that serves a community of predominantly people of color will host a concealed carry instructor who has used violent anti-Black racist slides; slides titled Firearm Safety for Black people that laid out instructions such as always pick -- lick the chicken grease off your fingers before shooting, always make sure there's a white person around so you have someone

to blame for everything wrong in your life, and always aim for small children to ensure you actually hit another gang member. That's disgusting. And you will host an individual who crossed state lines, armed, to attend a rally with which his values did not align, armed, who ended up murdering two people at a Black Lives Matter rally. Guns do not belong in the library. As a gun owner, I understand gun safety. I understand conversations are important, but guns do not belong in a library and this type of racism does not belong in institutions our tax money pays for. Libraries should be a place for the community to get resources, learn skills and have cultural celebrations, and we should be able to do that safely. And I urge you to cancel this event immediately. Thank you."

Tamara Favors- 4317 Stardusks Falls, North Las Vegas, NV 89084
"Good afternoon, Board members. My name is Tamara Favors and I'm a resident of North Las Vegas [inaudible]. I am a Housing Justice Organizer with Progressive Leadership Alliance on Nevada. I've come to ask you why and how is it possible to give a murderer a platform whose sole purpose was to drive across state lines to cause harm and trauma to individuals at a BLM protest; however, you denied my organization to host a GOT event, which was to ensure overlooked communities members have a choice of what to vote to make a positive change in Nevada and the community. Giving a murderer a platform to potentially inspire another person to cause harm and trauma while denying our community a space to celebrate and uplift our democracy is absurd and makes no sense. It is showing that you're picking and choosing who has a platform. Thank you."

Michelle Maese- 7078 Sunland Hills Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89113 " Thank you. Good evening, Mr. Chair and members of the Board. My name is Michelle Maese. Oh, my address is [inaudible]. My name is Michelle Maese. I'm the President of SEIU Local 1107, largest health care and public sector union in Nevada in the world. We represent about 19,000 members in Clark County. I'm also Clark County Family Services supervisor with the Child Fatality Incense Abuse Units for Clark County. I'm here today to raise awareness and alarm about the concealed weapons workshop scheduled on May 13th at the East Las Vegas Library. The guest of honor, Kyle, as we all know, he's infamous. The workshop will be held by the same gentleman that you just heard from, and in last April when they held the event in the other library, they were renounced by the library after they left and many of the other individuals who were at the library also. There's much to unpack about the statements that were said today, but I want you to remember what the last statement said was that he said, aim at a child so you always ensure that you're going to hit another gang member. Working for the Child Fatality Unit, I have been on the other side of what he talked about, about telling family members that their children are not coming home anymore, and it is a horrible conversation to have with people. So to have it in the library is not what we need to do. The U.S. had 647 mass shootings last year according to the Gun Violence Archive. We've had 106 this year. 300 children were killed by gun violence last year, and 43 have already died this year. The instructor said again, a child's death was a joke. I can assure you, as a mother and as a

community member, that is not a joke. That is 100 percent not a joke. I want to refer you to our Clark County governing principles: Accountability, excellence, innovation, integrity, open and inclusive government and respect. Hosting this type of event does nothing to uphold our county values as a community and as a government. If this Board doesn't see this as a violation of our county values, then we have a serious problem. We need more gun safety laws, more justice and more understanding of class and racial lines, and not less. If you need proof, look back at our guiding principles like I just read to you and events like this need to be cancelled for being too political. As you just heard, there were a couple other events that were cancelled for being too political. Hosting an event like this will give a platform for hate; that is a difficult conversation to have. As an anti-racist organization, SEIU Local 1107 cannot accept that. Or community, we deserve better, our children deserve better, you deserve better, to put your names on something better, and we will hold this Board accountable for the actions or inactions that you take. Thank you."

Jeri Burton- 1717 Matador Way, Las Vegas, NV 89128 "Thank you. My name is Jeri Burton. I'm the Executive Director of the National Organization for Women, the Nevada chapter. My address is [inaudible]. I'm a 65-year-old, 65-year resident of Nevada. So we were talking about how long we've lived here. So what happened was my husband actually must be on some mailing list and received an e-mail about the event and it had some -- you know, what caught our eye were some just horrific pictures of people sitting at a -- on a bench saying Guns in the Library with children -- with shirts that say Guns in the Library. So that caught my eye. And then I remembered the event that was held in the Flamingo Library. We had heard about that before, about the racist thing. So I took it upon myself to write a letter to the Trustees, you may have received it, and I said I was writing to express my concern over the event attached that they're advertising this as guns in the library and have Kyle Rittenhouse as a speaker. A recent event was cancelled by the Venetian last year when they realized who was speaking and the agenda. Having children and Guns in the Library t-shirts in their ads is bad advertising for the library, I said and allowing them to hold this event in our community library is wrong. Please cancel the event as the Venetian did. Their statement -- the Venetian's statement was, "While the mall does not speak on behalf of tenants, the shopping area wanted to emphasize that the event did not align with our properties core event guidelines." And I can't imagine this aligns with the Library District's values. Since then I've seen an article that talked about how Kyle Rittenhouse was upset that things kept getting cancelled and there was actually a brewery in Texas who cancelled an event saying it didn't align with their values. So if it doesn't align with a brewery in Texas, but it's okay for the library. So I got a nice letter back basically saying, sorry, we don't censor our people. And I said, you know, thank you for responding, I understand you have a policy in place. I've rented library rooms for the Nevada NOW meetings and had to follow the rules and -- but you have experience with -- I said you have experience with the same person holding this event at the Flamingo Library. You know who this is this time, you had to apologize last time. And other people have talked

about the slides. He says trust him, but he had slides talking about licking grease off your fingers and talking about Black people and how -- you've heard this already. You have evidence of what the last event looked like. Kelvin Watson with the Clark County Library told the Review Journal back then that the District condemned the hate speech in any form and would be reviewing the room rental policy. So -- but now he's okay to come to the East Las Vegas library. And again, you know what it looks like this time. He has a radio show, a previous program, you're not like going blind this time. You know exactly what it is. So, anyway, I hope you'll consider all that we're saying. We're all community activists and members of your community. And we have - - I have grandchildren. This is just awful, and I wouldn't have taken this much time to write these letters if you just wasn't appalling. So thank you and I hope you'll cancel the event as so many other all around the country have been doing."

Robin Franklin- 6931 Stone Cactus St, Las Vegas NV 89148"Good evening, Board. I'm Robin Franklin. I live at [inaudible]. And so I thought I was going to prepare something to say to you guys, but I really -- I don't have anything that could come off the top of my head knowing that I just wanted to say that I am -- I also just wanted to let you know that I'm a supervisor for Child Protective Services with the Department of Family Services and I'm the Political Relations Advisor for the National Action Network. When you think of the library and -- at least when I thought of the library, I always thought that this was this treasure trove of information that I can get, that it was one of the safest places where I could go growing up in basically the ghetto, right? And I always considered it to be that safe place and that's where children, that's where families go. And you are going to host an event that will put that in jeopardy for kids. This is about guns. This is not about, you know, let's write a short story. This is about people learning how to conceal a weapon that kills. You are going to give a platform to a person who has killed. It is a national, international known thing, a known racist. This is not something -- I know everybody has already said it, this is not something that you don't already know. As a taxpayer, as a mother, this is not okay. You know this, you can make the decision to say that this person should not be allowed to come into this community, to come into this black and brown community, to come where children go to be safe and to learn and to escape. You have a - - you have the ability to do that. So I ask you to please reconsider this application. I know that you wouldn't let strippers come and hold a party there. You wouldn't. But you're going to let this person be there with guns? You know, these people are going to bring guns on this premises. And you have children, not just teenagers. You have toddlers, you have mothers, you have children going to be on those premises. It is your duty to protect our public because that's what our taxpayers pay -- or our tax dollars pay for. Please do your job. Thank you"

Trustee Benavidez wanted to say a comment to everyone present.-
"Thank you. Thank you for coming. Thank you for spending your time. As a mother, as a Trustee and as a Latina, I hear you. So I just want

to thank everyone that's present that took their time out of their evening to come and put your voice, your thoughts to us. Thank you. I appreciate that."

**Executive Session
(Item XI.)**

None.

**Adjournment
(Item XII.)**

Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 5:58p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Foyt, Secretary

2023 ATTENDANCE

		2023																																				
		January 19 Regular Board Mtg	February 9 Regular Board Mtg	February 23 Finance and Audit Comm. Mtg	March 9 Regular Board Mtg	April 4 Special Board Mtg	April 12 Finance and Audit Comm. Mtg	April 20 Regular Board Mtg	May 18 Regular Board Mtg	June Risk Management Comm. Mtg	June Nominations Comm. Mtg	June 1 Regular Board Mtg	July Finance and Audit Comm. Mtg	July 13 Regular Board Mtg	AUGUST	September 14 Regular Board Mtg	September Finance and Audit Comm Mtg	October 12 Regular Board Mtg	November Finance and Audit Comm. Mtg	November 9 Regular Board Mtg	December 14 Regular Board Mtg																	
Benavidez	Kelly	A-E	P	P	P																																	
Foyt	Elizabeth	P	P		P																																	
Meléndrez	José	P	P		P																																	
Ortiz	Felipe	P	P		P																																	
Ramaker	Sandra	P	P		P																																	
Wilson	Brian	P	P	P	P																																	
Rogers	Keith	P	P	P	P																																	
Waugh**	Nathaniel	P	P	P	P																																	
Jiron****	Jennifer	P	P		P																																	
Turner Whiteley****	Kate	P	P		P																																	

P	Present
A-E	Excused Absence
A-U	Unexcused Absence
	attended Committee meeting but not a member
	Term Ended