

Name Susan Josephson

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Address

Email

Phone Number

Primary Board you are interested in:

Library Board

Resume/Biography Upload [Susan Josephson April 2025 resume.docx](#)

I am Interested in serving because:

Interest/Recommendation: I have been an avid reader since my elementary school years. My mother was a librarian, and I learned the joy and value of visiting the library from her. My love of public service also began as a child, starting with becoming a Girl Scout as a Brownie at age 7 continuing scouting through Seniors and as a camp counselor. I was active in many other service clubs and public service projects. I have engaged in community service in all the communities in which I have lived. Libraries are such a gift! Reading opens our eyes to people, places and experiences we may not have the opportunity to know in our own day to day lives. We can meet people from other lives, learn how to fix our own plumbing and cars, visit countries across the world and learn to cook their native cuisine. We can explore occupations in depth through fiction and references. When I've in medium and smaller communities, libraries have been particularly critical resources. These are many of the reason I am interested in serving on the Dickinson Library Board. I am also very interested in the variety of programming offered by our library. I have participated in the adult book group, the Old Fashioned Christmas, other events. I love visiting Twice Told Tales as well. (But I have to be careful purchasing more books--our shelves are overflowing already!)

Read the statements below. Check the boxes to signify you understand and will follow the statements if

Attend all Board meetings.

chosen as a Board Director.

Be genuinely interested in our library and understand the importance of public libraries as necessary government-funded services.

Be able to work with others to reach common goals.

Be open-minded, intellectually curious, in favor of the freedom to read, and against censorship.

Be able to withstand pressures and prejudice that would restrict or prevent equal library service to all.

Support library services for all, regardless of socio-economic status, race, age, mental or physical disorders, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

The Board approves library policy; library administration creates and carries out policies.

The Board supervises and evaluates the library director.

Library administration supervises and evaluates library employees.

The Board works with library administration to determine the mission and vision of the library.

Library administration manages day-to-day operations of the library, collection development, and library services and programs.

How long have you been a resident of Dickinson, Stark, Slope, or Billings County?

I moved to Stark County in the winter of 2013 so I've lived here 12 years and counting.

What groups or organizations are you currently, or have you been, associated with in the area?

I have been active in the American Association of University Women, the Homeless Coalition (serving as President for 2 years), adult book club at the Library, volunteered with setting up the Old Fashioned Christmas event at the library several years, I've worked part time at local elections through the Auditor's office, and other occasional local volunteer projects such as food drives and one time community events.

I am a member of a social group called "Drinking Liberally" which

is a local political group that encourages political engagement and education. While the group is generally more liberally-leaning, we focus on encouraging citizens to be informed on issues. We encourage voter registration and invite legislators to speak in the western area of the state. We discuss current events and review legislation as well.

I have regularly attended Coffee with the Legislators to get a well-rounded view of activities and issues in the state. (I have not attended this year because I have been seeing clients on Saturdays.)

I have attended City Commission, City Planning and Zoning Commission and Library Board meetings.

As I mental health counselor I have attended local and state meetings regarding mental health issues locally and across the state to learn about and advocate for mental health. I worked with Vision West to create the first Behavioral Health Summit in ND and this conference have continued for several years now.

What activities or functions have you participated in concerning the Dickinson Area Public Library?

I have volunteered setting up the Library Foundation's Old Fashioned Christmas for the last three years, I was a member of the Adult Book Group for 3 or 4 years, I have attended a number of Library Board meetings.

Please indicate the area(s) in which your knowledge would be of benefit to the Board.

Governmental relations

Marketing

Communications and public relations

Advocacy

Education: degree, institution, year obtained

Bachelor of Science, Brigham Young University, 1979 (Social Work)
Master of Arts, Goddard College, 1993 (Counseling)

Work experience: positions, employers, dates of employment

See Resume

Other experience: special skills, training, certifications, etc.

Licensed Mental Health Counseling State of Florida (License number 3749)

What are the responsibilities of a Library Board Director?

1. The Board has legal responsibility for the operations of the Dickinson Public Library per ND Century Code. Subject to State and Federal laws, the Board has the power and duty to determine regulations and rules governing library property, operations, and services.
2. To adopt policies governing library operations and to adopt and amend library policies.
3. To employ and supervise a library director.
4. To approve annual budget funds ensuring adequate funds for library operations. To approve all library expenditures.
5. To supervise building and grounds regularly. To review facilities to make sure they meet the needs of the library program.
6. The Board may contract other libraries to about better or more efficient provision of services and may approve library contracts to provide services to other entities.
7. To advocate for policies and support legislation for the greatest good to the greatest number of library users. To work cooperatively with government officials to maintain positive public relations and advocate for the library.
8. The board will establish by-laws for the library.

What are the responsibilities of the Library Director and Library Administration?

1. Attend all Board meeting (unless excused) and serve as executive officer and lead advisor to the Board.
2. Enact the policies adopted by the Board of Directors.
3. Make recommendations regarding the facility, personnel, and policies of the library.
4. Supervise all personnel and volunteers. within library selections and policies.
5. Under direction of the Board, make decisions regarding budget & expenditures, including purchases within the library's selections purchasing policies.
6. Supervise building, grounds, and bookmobile.

Why do you want to serve on the Library Board?

I want to serve on the Library Board to uphold the library's policies, help the library continue to grow and thrive, support the library staff, help the community continue to be aware of the library's services, support continued adequate funding, and support this excellent resource in our community. I think the no censorship policy is an important part of the library's work. All patrons can choose the material they want to access. Every family can choose what is in their own home and what they want their children to read and take part in. The library's mission is to make resources available to all families and citizens. This means that some of the materials in the library will not be used by all citizens or all families. Parents are responsible to monitor what their children check out at the library. The library is responsible for offering an uncensored selection of material for the community.

Why is the library important for our community and why

Libraries are one of the most important resources in a community. Libraries are accessible and welcoming to

is it a necessary
government service?

EVERYONE! Staff members are trained as information-finding experts, assisting community members in finding information that can be difficult to locate. Because the library serves everyone in the community, it is an appropriate expenditure for government funds. In addition, the library assists residents at little or no cost with things like computer use including e-mail, fax services, wide information access.

Staff members in our library exhibit expertise and patience as they assist a diverse patron population. Obtaining information is complicated these days because there are so many resources and it takes expertise and funds to gain access. A library can be a community's gateway to knowledge, personal and professional growth, and well-being.

Although they are not charged to do so, libraries also provide informal social service support. People use the library as a warming center in the winter, staff members provide information on local services, staff members are kind and welcoming to everyone who comes through the doors. As a mental health professional, I know that kind words from others have honestly saved lives for people in desperate need of connection at times. I have observed conversations of that level at the library. The staff members form relationships with patrons and are amazingly kind. Citizens in our community utilize the library for necessary services as well as for reading pleasure and enrichment. It is government funding well-spent.

Signature



Date

04-28-2024