



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Budget Committee input for Tuesday meeting

1 message

Jackie Lester <jackiel3ster73@gmail.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 7:48 AM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Budget Committee,

As a long time CG Community member and former South Lane School District Principal and Literacy Specialist, I have enormous respect for the public library services that are essential to our community. South Lane School District has partnered with the CG Public Library over the years on many projects and activities to support family literacy as well as many other family and community needs. A public library represents a hub of support for every community. In these unprecedented times, a community support hub will be more essential than ever before. Please consider utilizing our library in the capacity of expanded services to our community, rather than depleting revenue for library services in the 2020-2021 budget. There is no doubt that the need for community support through our public library in the coming year will be tremendous.

Jackie Lester
77914 Chisholm Trail Drive
Cottage Grove



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Library budget cut

1 message

Kathryn Porter <porterinoregon@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Kathryn Porter <porterinoregon@yahoo.com>
To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org
Cc: Friends of CGLibrary <friendsofcglibrary@gmail.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 9:47 AM

:Libraries are the PEOPLE'S University. Although some think that now that we have the internet and lots of outlet's for books and learning that there is no role for libraries. This is a false assumption. Libraries provide more than books. They provide activities for children especially during the summer to help them 1) learn to read before school and 2) maintain the reading school when school is closed for vacations and summer. Don't we all agree that our children's education is high on our list for supporting through city, state and national programs--the PEOPLE'S University. Libraries also offer ways for people to develop skills to apply and look for jobs. The PEOPLE's University. Libraries provide adult and teen programming that also are informative in that we may have not thought about the ideas being discussed or we now have new skills or insights that help us be better parents or citizens of our town. There are hundreds of ways that libraries serve their communities. They are not just for recreational reading--and there is nothing wrong with that because sharing books is cost saving for the people. Libraries are not flashy like a concert in the park or a parade, but they impact lots of people in ways we will never know but they know.

I don't know what you know about what our library offers, but at current budget levels it is a bargain. Library users may not be vocal, but I feel very fortunate to have a library in Cottage Grove and hope you consider restoring funds for the 2020-21 year.

Kathryn Porter



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Written Testimony for Public Hearing

1 message

Samantha Duncan <samantha.duncan@gmail.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 2:03 PM

To: Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

City Recorder:

As a Cottage Grove business owner, Be Your Best member, and a board member of the Friends of the Library, I strongly support a fully staffed Public Library in our community. Now more than ever, our library **will** need to expand outreach and services to meet the needs of community members who have been or will be impacted by COVID-19. I hope that the proposal to reduce staff and hours for the library **will** be reconsidered, as this will likely lead to reduced services and a more stressful working environment. I hope that in the coming year the library can be a **valuable** partner as we work to build a stronger, healthier South Lane Community.

Samantha Duncan
961 Territorial Hwy
Cottage Grove, OR 97424



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

for Public Testimony

1 message

Denton denton <denton.us@gmail.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 6:02 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Dear Budget Committee,

I write this letter to you in somewhat of a shock. I have heard that the Public Library is losing much of its funding. You cannot allow this to happen!

I am a teacher, and since distance learning has taken us by force, I remained hopeful that not just students, but every member of our community would be able to find a port in the storm in our **libraries**. Our Public Library is probably the most equitable space CG has where anyone can seek and get support from in our community. We have a large elderly population who benefit from the support our librarians give when they need support tackling technology concerns, or guidance on how to do things that they have not had the time to learn. Our immigrant population has the ability to visit the library and check out books in different languages, and also access our computers and printing. The Public Library has also made a space for our young adults by providing a teen section where the youth can also access resume writing and job seeking support.

Who will support all of our community?

This is not a time to cut services or the budget, instead we should bolster our Public Library. Our Librarians are trained and can meet many of these needs remotely, yet they have to have a budget that will support them. Our community needs the Public Library, fund IT, not the city manager, check the budget, he has given himself several raises to HIMSELF! Shame on us if we let this happen.

Cottage Grove Resident,
Daniel Denton



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Library funding/city budget

1 message

Hudson <rockadavy@gmail.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 6:45 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

I want to speak for the library staff in Cottage Grove who contribute so much to our community. The library serves so many citizens who otherwise would not have access to books and computers. They coordinate groups and activities which serve our children and disabled and disadvantaged people or open the world to teenagers. Our library staff have been reliable, creative, engaged and they deserve full consideration in the budget.

I am a frequent visitor to the library and continue to find books, information and activities that keep me educated and entertained. I meet friends there weekly for the ukulele playing. We also run a summer class for children to learn to play. The library gives us place and opportunity to be engaged in our community.

Thank you.

Sheila Hudson
1555 Anthony Avenue
Cottage Grove OR



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Budget Cuts to the Library

1 message

Patricia Noe <noesark@q.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 8:26 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

I understand that proposed budget cuts are going to result in the loss of part-time positions at the library. I am concerned that the loss of personnel will mean the loss of library hours and services.

Please consider what vital services that the library offers to Cottage Grove.

The under-served and underprivileged receive invaluable support from the librarians. The use of computers for those who have no computer at home, or no home, is a life line, helping people navigate housing needs, jobs, continuing education and community services. The librarians are fundamental in helping people utilize the computers. Fewer employees will have a severe and stressful effect on the sector of the community that can least afford to do without their help.

The library offers life enriching opportunities for the entire community regardless of their ability to pay. The building gives space for exhibits, lectures, and music - all organized by the library staff.

The staff organizes summer activities for the children of the community – opportunities they would otherwise do without. I, myself, volunteer my time at the library in the summer to teach ukulele to children who are interested and sometimes to the parents. I would not be playing the ukulele at all if it weren't for the library staff offering the space and time.

I'm sure that there are countless services that are provided by the library staff that I don't know about. Cottage Grove needs the time and skills that these employees have to give. Shortened hours and curtailed activities will definitely affect the lives of the less advantaged people in our town.

I realize that budget concerns are difficult at this time. I urge you to take into account the wonderful contribution that each employee makes and how necessary they are to the health and well-being of the general population of our town. As services disappear, the health of the community will suffer.

Thank you for your attention. Patricia Noë

79156 Quail Loop

Cottage Grove, OR 97424

noesark@q.com



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Public testimony, budget committee

1 message

Melia Hill <meliahill88@gmail.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 8:59 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

To whom it may concern, specifically the budget committee,

I do NOT support the extreme budget cuts to the Cottage Grove Library.

I, myself have worked in four libraries as well as at a bookstore in addition to volunteering at the public library in Eugene and I understand now more than ever what a library has to offer besides books and other media on loan. The Eugene library offered a warm space for the homeless, which I can only assume is something similar to what the Cottage Grove Library offers, but aside from that libraries offer access- access to things that some people cannot get in any other location; computer use, help finding a job, help accessing resources to get them basic needs or a warm space for children to go to after school until their parents are able to get them. Libraries offer story escapes as well as a helpful hand to hold, but it TAKES THE ENTIRE STAFF to keep these resources going- especially in tricky times like these!

I trust that you'll consider the vast impact that the Cottage Grove library has on its close community and understand why it needs continued budget support now and far into the future.

Thank you,
Melia



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

FOR BUDGET COMMITTEE

1 message

Adel Ali <aa71217@live.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 9:01 PM

To: Cityrecorder <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

PLEASE DO NOT CUT FUNDS TO THE LIBRARY, PEOPLE NEED A SAFE SPACE TO BE ABLE TO WORK AND IMPROVE THEIR LIVES. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT RESOURCE FOR MANY PEOPLE!



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Budget Comitte

1 message

Jai Valentine <jabarikillingsworth@gmail.com>

To: "cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org" <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 9:09 PM

The extreme budget cuts that are being made are inequitable!



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Budget cuts

1 message

Sireen Anbar <sireenanbar@icloud.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 9:17 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Dear who it may concern,

I am emailing to address the Budget Committee in my concern about the extreme budget cuts. The decision made seems to only benefit one person and not all the staff and community as a whole. The cut will not only put people out of work, but it will also put a lot more pressure on the people who are left to work at the library. It is completely inequitable to reward some people for the suffering of others. It is completely unfair to only look at one side of the equation and ignore the other side that is in distress. These people who work at the library provide so much more than a service, they provide comfort and a safe space for others. Think about the people who are going to lose their jobs, especially during this time while everything is going on we should stick together and support each other. Put yourself in their shoes and really think about how they will live if their job is lost. It will not only hurt financially, but it could also hurt mentally as well. I hope that you think more about your decision and think about every single person it is effecting.

Best Regards,

Sireen A.



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Budget cut on library

1 message

Suhela Hassan <suheleahassann@gmail.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 9:17 PM

To: "cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org" <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Hello, I am emailing to try and stop this budget cut as it is inequitable. The library is a safe free space for teens, the house-less, etc. Going forward with this budget cut is unjust.



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Library

1 message

Abdullah Albarasi <abalbarasi@gmail.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 9:31 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Extreme budget cuts are inequitable and the library needs all of it's staff to properly function.Thank You.



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Inequitable Budget Cuts

1 message

Amirah Sabir <amirahameenah@gmail.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 9:36 PM

To: "cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org" <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

To the Budget Committee,

As someone who views the library as a vital part of society and appreciates the staff who play an integral role, I believe it is important that library staff will not have to face any job insecurity.

The extreme budget cuts are inequitable and I am asking you to please rethink how it affects your staff and the people who love and utilize all that the library offers.

Sincerely,

Amirah



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Library Budget Cuts

1 message

Asad Muscati <amuscati0790@panther.chaffey.edu>
To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 9:37 PM

Please don't remove library staff, as it is integral to the well being of the community as a whole.



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Library

1 message

M Denton <writerofrohand@gmail.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 10:23 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Public Testimony
Budget Committee

Our library is an essential part of our community. How is it supposed to function with half of the staff gone?

Please show us that you care about our wellbeing by not approving the extreme budget cuts to the library and its staff. It really disheartens me that such a central part of the community isn't being supported in these trying times.

Sincerely

A concerned 18 year old Cottage Grove resident.



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Cottage Grove Library

1 message

Nhema Abdallah <nhema.abdallah@yahoo.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 10:44 PM

To: "cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org" <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

To the Budget Committee,

The news of the proposed budget cuts that would impact the Cottage Grove Library have left me quite unsettled. Libraries are needed more than ever to fill in the resource gap in multiple communities. The library, which helps support teenagers and houseless people, provides a safe and free space that needs to be protected at all costs. These budget cuts and the removal of staff would be inequitable by inhibiting the library from serving the community in a meaningful capacity. The community is counting on you to serve and protect, please don't shy away from doing the right thing.

Best Regards,
Nhema Abdallah



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Regarding the budget cuts

1 message

Jane Brooks <janebrooks456@gmail.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 10:56 PM

To: "cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org" <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Budget Committee,

The extreme budget cuts being made are inequitable by the simplest of explanations. For your library to function and people's livelihoods to be stable you need to assume the responsibility of your employees. These times are difficult and people's lives are being affected by your decisions. Those who proposed this budget seek to take care of themselves and will more than benefit from people being thrown out on the street with no means to pay their bills. And your business will suffer as well. Do not abandon the people who have made your establishment a possibility when they need and deserve your support now more than ever.

A concerned citizen and advocated for those impacted by your choices,

SJV



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Budget cuts concerns

1 message

Aristel de la Cruz <aed415@yahoo.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 11:18 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Hello budget committee,

I was recently informed of the huge cut to library services in your town. I am asking that your committee show compassion to these workers and to invest more money into the libraries in that they provide an invaluable service to the community. Amidst a pandemic, it important that we show compassion to people who work in jobs that serve the public especially the libraries that provide access to information to the most underserved and marginalized populations in your town. Please halt any cuts to the libraries.

Thanks for your time,
Aristel de la Cruz

Sent from my iPhone



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Support for library staff, do not cut library budget

1 message

Yiann Chou <chou.yiann@gmail.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 11:19 PM

To: "cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org" <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Hello Budget Committee,

I'm writing to urge you NOT to cut the library budget. The library is a valuable resource and community center, and would not be the same without half its staff. These extreme cuts feel especially egregious in light of the fact that city manager has tripled his own salary and increased his own travel expenses. Community members are taking notice! I urge you again not to cut the library budget.

Sincerely,

Yiann Chou



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Budget Committee

1 message

Moraa Noella Ogamba <mnogamba@gmail.com>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 11:35 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

To whom it may concern,

The proposed budget would remove half of the library staff making it unable to operate in a meaningful capacity. As a local library, it fills resource gaps in multiple communities and provides a safe space for at-risk teens and the houseless. The budget cuts are inequitable and I am not in support of the proposed budget.

Best,
M.O.



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

REGARDING BUDGET COMMITTEE

1 message

Muhammad Castro <mcastrob0ii@gmail.com>
To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 12:31 AM

Dear Budget Committee,

Hope you guys receive this email in good health and spirits. I just wanted to let you know that the extreme budget cuts are inequitable. A lot of people are suffering because of this. Just please take notice of this.

Thank you...



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Budget Committee

1 message

the_kareem@hotmail.com <the_kareem@hotmail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 1:11 AM

Reply-To: the_kareem@hotmail.com

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Good Morning,

Please reconsider the extreme budget cuts that impact the library services. Beware of unnecessary expenses and look to keep staff and maintain services rather than pay high administrative or management costs.

The library needs all its staff to properly function and the community benefits greatly from that service.

Sincerely,

Kareem Hassan

Sent from myMail for iOS



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Library budget cuts

1 message

Heather <hfk@riseup.net>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 8:00 AM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that there are massive budget cuts affecting our local library. I do not support these cuts. The cottage grove library is a valuable resource to so many in this community. The staff has been so supportive and helpful through the years and cutting part time staff will not allow the place to run. They are vital to the library.

Please rethink the budget cuts and keep ALL our extremely vital library staff.

Thank you for your time.

Heather Kalian

Sent from my gravel pit



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Inequitable Budget Cuts

1 message

Maryam Sellars <maryams.4567@gmail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 8:21 AM

To: "cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org" <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Dear Budget Committee,

The extreme budget cuts are inequitable, and the library needs every one of its staff in order to run efficiently and serve the city in meaningful and beneficial way.



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

CG Library

1 message

Joe Brazie <jbrazie@jps.net>

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Cc: Joe Brazie <jbrazie@jps.net>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 8:41 AM

The Cottage Grove Library is such an important part and resource of the Community. It must not be forgotten, now, and especially soon, as things open up step by step. All citizens will benefit, as they return to a decent and fulfilling life in Cottage Grove, again. Please, bring those workers back, if only part time for the rest of this year, as they prepare for what's to come.

Joe Brazie



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Library cuts

1 message

benjamindph@gmail.com <benjamindph@gmail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 9:00 AM

Reply-To: benjamindph@gmail.com

To: cityrecorder <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

I heard about the extreme budget cuts that will cut the library services. Please save the staff and don't cut services.

The library needs all its staff to help our community.

Ali Dphrepaulezz

Sent from myMail for iOS



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Library Staff

1 message

ana maria dudley <dudleyam@gmail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 9:12 AM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Dear Council Members, today you will hear from many of us about why we think the decision to downsized the Cottage Grove Library Staff is short sighted at this movement in history. Libraries are the soul and hub of a community, a place where ALL can have access to information and services. It is not just books for knowledge it is a resource place, a place where we all gather for many activities. Having knowledgeable staff is crucial to the success of the library. We have been so lucky to have such a team in our community. This Covid 19 virus situation is temporary, we will see the end of this pandemic. What it is not temporary is the services the library staff provides to our community. I beg you to considered this decision for the betterment of all of us in our beloved community.

I appreciate the opportunity to support our library staff and add my voice to all the concerned citizens that call our library a place of respite and knowledge.

Sincerely,

Ana Maria Dudley
Cottage Grove Resident



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

RE: Budget Committee

1 message

Earl Walls Jr. <em93walls@gmail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 9:20 AM

To: "cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org" <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

To whom it may concern:

The proposed budget cuts are extreme and inequitable. The library needs ALL of its staff to properly function as a community resource and safe space for those who need it.

Please do not do the disservice of impairing the library from fulfilling its role as a staple in this community.

Best,

E Walls



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Elimination of part-time library positions

Ken Roe <kbbroncoken@gmail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 10:31 AM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

My name is Kenneth Roe and I have resided in Cottage Grove for five years. In that time I have discovered the value of Cottage Grove Public Library to be on the scale of a library in a much larger city. Pete Barrell and his staff have made our library a destination and a community point of pride. The role of the able part-time staff has been invaluable to help Pete with the daily activities and the endless chores, tasks and inter-actions with the general public. I would urge the Budget Committee to retain the part-time staff as it benefits the community as a whole.

We, as residents of Cottage Grove, are indeed fortunate to have a library of a caliber to compare to cities many fold our size. The displays and exhibits are educational, informative and timely. Please allow Pete to continue his excellent work with his entire staff intact.

Thank you for this forum and your consideration,

Sincerely,

Kenneth Roe 111 N. J st. Cottage Grove, OR 97424



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Proposed Budget

1 message

Joseph Toman <toman@lillibolero.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 10:32 AM

To: "cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org" <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

To the City of Cottage Grove Budget Committee,

I'm writing to urge you in the strongest possible terms to fully fund the salaries of the 4 Cottage Grove Public Library staff members, and to retain the 4 part time library staff as well. CGPL only functions because both its full time and part time staff go above and beyond to keep the place running and to serve the needs of its patrons. The very least the City can do is pay them correctly.

More than that, it makes financial sense. Once businesses open up again, people will be looking for jobs, and the place to go for information and help in finding information in Cottage Grove is the Cottage Grove Public Library. Not providing the pre-pandemic service level to job seeking patrons will slow their reintegration into the work force, which will in turn slow Cottage Grove's recovery. Conversely, aggressively funding the job seeking efforts of Grovers will accelerate Cottage Grove's recovery both in an absolute sense and relative to nearby communities. It's simply good business to make sure our citizens get back on their feet as fast as possible.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

J. Toman

--

Joseph Toman Ph.D.
Lillibolero Inc



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

library cuts

1 message

Karen Hill <khillfpc@gmail.com>
To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 10:35 AM

Dear City Manager and City Council,

I would like to register my opposition with the cuts to the library staffing budget for the coming year. Libraries serve a necessary purpose in our community - a "third place" that is not home and not work. They supplement education, offer infinite possibilities for enrichment and entertainment, and serve people of all ages. They offer safe space for many in the community. The staff are a rich resource and their work is necessary for healthy community life.

I'm wondering why the cuts are focused on the library staff; are other budget areas experiencing cuts, as well? If not, why not spread this over the budget? Why the library? What happens next year when the budget is again short, will the library get cut again?

The library budget should be increased, not decreased. I oppose these cuts strongly and hope that you will listen to this feedback.

Sincerely,
Karen Hill

--
Rev. Karen Hill

First Presbyterian Church
216 S. 3rd St.
Cottage Grove, OR
(541)942-4479



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

budget for the library

1 message

Dorothy Bond <dorothybond@q.com>

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 10:47 AM

I have enjoyed the use of our Cottage Grove Library for about 65 years ever since moving to Cottage Grove.

I am now a 93 year old house-bound widow who enjoys reading so much, and greatly appreciates the cheerful support of our current staff.

I do hope and trust that your budget committee will know how much having this great small-town library means to me and so many others.

Dorothy Bond



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Reduction of library staff hours per new budget

Catherine Burke <catburke10@yahoo.com>
To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 10:54 AM

This is testimony to be submitted in today's budget meeting:

The Cottage Grove Public Library is a valuable resource for our town. It is a hub of activity on any given day serving all walks of society. It is especially valuable to those who do not have access to internet service; youth who may not have a safe place to go to after school; those who hold meetings for any number of organizations; families to introduce their children to the world of books and the list goes on and on. The report that has been provided by the librarian for the City budget shows just how important the library is to the community. Natasha reported that she would like to increase the number of programs for the coming year. Cutting her full time position to .92 will not allow that to happen. A visit to the library currently (when allowable) would show just how stretched the library staff is.

Newcomers to Cottage Grove whether families or retirees or those looking to settle in a new town look to a robust library as part of their search. Let us hope that the City will reconsider their proposal to reduce the funding for our library.

Thank you for your consideration.

Catherine Burke
Secretary, Friends of the Cottage Grove Library



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Library budget

1 message

Jerry Oltion <j.oltion@gmail.com>

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 11:17 AM

A message for the city budget committee:

I've heard that the new proposed city budget eliminates all part time employees for the Cottage Grove Library, and reduces the full-time staff to .92 FTE. I believe this would be a mistake.

Libraries are valuable community resources. When the stay-at-home order is lifted and the thousands of people who have lost their jobs begin looking for work again, the library will be more valuable than ever. Cutting its budget at such a crucial time is false economy. We need to keep our library strong and fully staffed so it can meet the needs of the community.

Sincerely,
Jerry Oltion
j.oltion@gmail.com



Richard Meyers <citymanager@cottagegrove.org>

Proposed Budget

1 message

Pamela Simpson <pamelasimpson1@gmail.com>
To: citymanager@cottagegrove.org

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 11:19 AM

Hi Richard,

I would like to express my support for the library. I know there are budget cuts proposed, and understand why. It seems you have proposed reductions in the library budget, inasmuch as it is not currently open. But, I am relieved to know that this is a temporary plan, so that funding can be increased when the library reopens in some unknown format. Although I do not live in the city, I do have a library card and appreciate the ability to access the wonderful services provided.

I am concerned for the vulnerable population that especially need access to services provided by the library. I do observe what appears to be this sector actively using library services. And I also happily observe children using the library extensively!!! I am pleased to see that internet service is still available, with the password clearly identified on the front door!!!!

I read your explanation to Bruce Kelsh of the rationale for library funding. Your intent to bring back more funding to the library after reopening is very positive.

Thank you for your support of the library.

Sincerely,
Pam Simpson



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

To the Budget Committee: Please save the Cottage Grove Library

1 message

Akilah <ifthisisparadise@gmail.com>
To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 11:21 AM

In any time but especially now, what people need is visionary leadership who prioritize the people over short term desires. Libraries in the 21st century, like never before, are a fundamental part of what create and maintain cohesive communities. Libraries enable them not only to survive but thrive. In every town, in every city, in every county, in every state, in every country, well-funded and supported libraries are a sign of health. Librarians at every level, part-time or full-time, go above and beyond to make this possible by being a teacher, counselor, parent, friend and mentor and, in doing so, create a space that is a library, a job centre, a crisis centre, and a place of refuge.

The cuts proposed are a fatal blow to the community's body and must be checked, especially in light of other frivolous suggested salary raises. If one were to ask the Cottage Grove community who has played a more vital, immediate and meaningful in their daily lives what would be their answer? That is who must be more prominently supported and funded, now and in the future.

This is my public testimony,
Akilah White



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Library Closure

1 message

Mary Nisewander <marynisewander54@gmail.com>
To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 11:23 AM

To Whom It May Concern~

We are writing this letter in the hopes that this committee will review and reverse their decision on the closure of our ONLY city Library. This pandemic will eventually pass, however our library will be one of the first SAFE areas that can remain in service with schools closed until September. We encourage this committee to please keep our 4 full time staff to be full time, and for our 4 part time staff to be funded in the new budget. The importance of community support now is needed more than ever for our families and students.

Sincerely~

Steve & Mary Nisewander

Sent from my iPhone



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

ATTN: Budget Committee

1 message

ruth baker <baker.ruth@hotmail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 11:52 AM

To: "cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org" <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Dear Budget Committee,

My name is Ruth Baker. I am a blogger from Toronto, Canada. I use my Instagram to connect with people all over the world and I happen to follow Sapphire the Serial Reader. She mentioned in her stories that you plan to make budget cuts that will affect how the Cottage Grove Public Library helps the community.

I feel compelled to reach out to the committee because libraries are such an important part of the community and it would be sad to see a library that does so much more for the community outside of just a place for people to come and read books go. Libraries give us access to knowledge that helps a community to grow stronger and smarter. It gives people a place to access information, especially those who don't have the opportunity to do so on their own. Libraries give people the chance to learn not just about themselves but communities outside of themselves too.

Communities are only as strong as their weakest link. And this is why we always want to make sure that our weakest links are as strong as possible to keep our communities thriving. The Cottage Grove Public Library is an essential part of maintaining the strength of this community. They are there for the underprivileged in the community and provide resources to gain stability.

I can say personally, Sapphire's Instagram account has given me multiple book suggestions that have inspired diversity in my reading choices.

Please reconsider the new budget and how it could impact your community.

Ruth Baker



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

ATTN: Budget Committee, Public Testimony about Cottage Grove Public Library

1 message

Maria-Antonia Mejia <mejiamaria10@gmail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 12:26 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Dear Budget Committee of the City of Cottage Grove,

The proposed budget regarding the Cottage Grove Public Library for the Fiscal year of 2020-21 would cause the loss of employment for half of the library staff, which not only threatens current employees' livelihoods but also threatens the library's ability to function at the capacity that is needed by the Cottage Grove community.

Rural public libraries have an immense role in filling resource gaps that otherwise pose substantial obstacles in rural communities. Examples in which full-functioning libraries are needed for rural towns include but are not limited to:

- **Helping people from the community find jobs and employment**
- **Providing a safe space for youth and families with children**
- **Providing reliable WiFi connection and internet services for students to complete schoolwork and adults to complete required on-line forms such as taxes, job and college applications, filing unemployment, scheduling health appointments, etc.**
- **Providing after-school activities for youth and adolescents that promote literacy and a positive social experience within the community**
- **Finding safe places for community members to sleep when facing severe hardship such as the loss of housing and shelter**

And many more ways in which libraries play a pivotal community role for the well-being of rural towns that extends beyond books and literature.

I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed budget proposal that cuts funding to the Cottage Grove Public Library and **ensure that it maintains all its full-time and part-time employee positions and salaries**. Especially in these crucial times with the COVID-19 pandemic and the loss of employment and resources for a significant portion of the Cottage Grove community, the library is a necessary resource for aiding the community and it can only do so when it is running with it's entire staff employed to carry out these necessary functions.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,
Maria Mejia-Botero

* This message is a public testimony



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Written testimony re: Cottage Grove Library budget cuts

1 message

Mark Breckenridge <mbrecken@hotmail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 1:00 PM

To: "cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org" <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Dear Trudy,

Below is my written testimony regarding the city's July 2020- June 2021 proposed budget. Please take this into consideration before the meeting at 3:00pm. I have attached a copy of my letter in this email, and also included the text here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark and Stephanie Breckenridge

To the City Recorder,

I was recently informed of the city's decision to eliminate four positions in the library staff. I am a fairly new resident of Cottage Grove and a faithful library patron. I am aware of how this would impact the library and I would like to share some of the main reasons why this cost-saving measure is bad for the community.

Staffing cuts would mean fewer operating hours and, in turn, less availability to vital resources for the community. A library is simply too valuable and essential to make cuts. The library is more than a space for books and educational resources. It is a learning center that offers opportunities for community members to stay informed and up to date. It offers free access to newspapers, periodicals, and the Internet. The library staff is responsible for providing this access and for guiding patrons toward it. Losing them would mean losing opportunities to learn as well as losing access to vital information.

Our library is an important community hub and a free public space that offers programs for children, teens, and adults. The library offers regularly scheduled story-times for children and gaming nights for teens that are always well attended. The library staff provides the expertise to create and implement new and innovative programs for the community's youth – all of which would be eliminated in your proposed budget cuts.

In terms of boosting the local economy, the library provides a workspace for teens and adult members of the community who are job seeking and looking for professional development opportunities. Additionally, the library benefits local businesses and agencies by providing free meeting spaces for conferences, meetings, and job interviews. The library staff provides assistance and support in this area. Without them these resources will not be available. We cannot afford to deprive our citizens of job-seeking opportunities.

Our library is also a space where community members can feel safe and find empathy. Libraries provide a refuge for underserved members of our community and people experiencing homelessness. Losing access to the library will deeply impact the underserved citizens in our community who rely on this public space for their general well being. The library staff is responsible for demonstrating equity and inclusion towards all patrons of the library. We cannot afford to lose them.

All of the benefits listed above will be severely limited by the staffing cuts you are proposing here today. I believe the state of a community's library says a lot about the community itself. The better and more supported the library is, the more informed – and included – its citizens are. In short, the cost-saving measure to reduce the number of staff members and, in turn, to reduce the hours of operation and the availability of resources previously offered by our library, is a mistake. For the benefit of the community, I hope you reconsider.

Sincerely,

Mark and Stephanie Breckenridge

Cottage Grove resident since September 2019



library.docx

148K



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Library Budget

1 message

Historical Society <cghistoricalsoc@gmail.com>
To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 1:10 PM

Dear Budget Committee

I am writing to ask you to fully fund the Cottage Grove Public Library. Please retain all of the current full-time and part-time employees. The Library is the most important cultural institution in our town and is a valued partner of the Cottage Grove Historical Society. They have been hugely instrumental in bringing the story of this City to many more people than we would be able to alone as a Historical Society. The future is so uncertain right now, but the one thing that people should be able to count on to get them through whatever comes is a fully functioning Library. Do not let the people of this town down by eviscerating this valuable resource, we need it now more than ever.
Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,
Katy Vaughn, President
Cottage Grove Historical Society



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Comment regarding City Budget

1 message

Colin Rea <crea@fernridgelibrary.org>
To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 1:29 PM

It is my understanding that the proposed city budget for Cottage Grove eliminates part-time library positions and cuts full-time library staff to .92 hours. As the leader of a library in Lane County, I would encourage the city of Cottage Grove to reconsider this cost-saving measure. Perhaps no city service will be more important or hit harder once the 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' measures are eased than that of library service. Your citizens will look to the library for support as they seek employment, file paperwork for unemployment and other relief payments, and seek low-cost entertainment that allows them to continue to stay home as much as possible. The current thinking about the future of our society post-quarantine is that we will likely need to practice social distancing for up to two years, and the economy will likely need even longer to return to what we used to think of as 'normal.' Your library will play a vital role in the lives of all of your community as our county and our state heal. Thank you.

Colin M. Rea

Director, Fern Ridge Library District

PO Box 397

88026 Territorial Road

Veneta, OR 97487

541.935.7512 fax 541.935.8013

www.fernridgelibrary.org



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

CG Public Library

1 message

Alice Christianson <alisonoregon@gmail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 1:33 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

I am writing because I am very concerned about the Cottage Grove Library funding. The library is an essential service to the community since it serves every citizen for reading, news, media and educational purposes. It is especially important to low income people, children and those with disabilities. Please fund the library fully so that it will be able to continue to serve the community!

Thank you,

Alice Christianson

--

Alice Christianson
Graphic Design

541-315-1096
alisonoregon@gmail.com



*"You can't use up creativity. The more
you use, the more you have."*
-- Maya Angelou



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Please do not cut the budget of Cottage Grove Public Library

1 message

Sonya C <sonyachen.ccz@gmail.com>
To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 1:34 PM

To the Budget Committee,

I am writing to urge you to keep ALL the staff at Cottage Grove Public Library, as ALL the staff is needed to serve the community and maintain the libraries' critical functions. Libraries are now needed more than ever; they provide a free space for youth and the houseless, the staff at libraries help community members access important resources even beyond books. Cutting the budget of Cottage Grove Public Library would greatly harm the community.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Sonya Chen



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Concerns

Yasmeen Rasheed <yasmeenrasheed5@gmail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 1:39 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

The news of the proposed budget cuts that would impact the Cottage Grove Library have left me quite unsettled. Libraries are needed more than ever to fill in the resource gap in multiple communities. The library, which helps support teenagers and houseless people, provides a safe and free space that needs to be protected at all costs.

These budget cuts and the removal of staff would be inequitable by inhibiting the library from serving the community in a meaningful capacity. The community is counting on you to serve and protect, please don't shy away from doing the right thing.

Best Regards,
Yasmeen



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Cottage Grove Library

1 message

Lily March <lilymarch55@gmail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 2:01 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Budget Committee,

Cottage grove library is an absolutely essential part of our community, and for it to operate as intended, providing support for so many; it needs ALL of its staff. I have grown up having the library be an important part of my life, and I've known some of the staff members since I was little. They have always been there to support anyone in need, as well as putting in tons of effort to make the library itself a safe and fun place. Please, reconsider the extreme budget cuts to the library, cottage grove would not be the same without it and it's amazing staff.



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Budget cuts

1 message

maria dietrich <mariadietrich@outlook.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 2:15 PM

To: "cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org" <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

To whom it may concern~

I do not support extreme budget cuts to our library! Our library is very important to our little town, as are the librarians who work there. Please, I strongly urge you to reconsider these cuts. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Have a nice day, and stay well.

Sincerely,

Maria Dietrich

Resident of cottage grove

Sent from my iPhone



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Testimony for City of Cottage Grove's FY 2020/2021 Budget Committee Meeting

1 message

Meg Spencer <meg@siuslawlibrary.org>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 2:19 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Dear City of Cottage Grove Budget Committee:

I am writing as a library director in Lane County who works closely with your amazing Cottage Grove Public Library. I have been consistently impressed with the quality, variety, and level of service provided by your dedicated library staff, and I urge you to maintain appropriate funding for all of the employees working at the City's library – full and part-time staff alike. I know how much part-time staff members matter to the operations of any successful library, and how a successful library ensures a successful community response in times of crisis.

The Siuslaw Public Library works with the Cottage Grove Public Library staff through the Lane Council of Librarians. This reciprocal borrowing and professional networking organization brings together all of the public libraries in Lane County. I have seen first-hand what Director Pete Barrell and everyone he works with have done for the City of Cottage Grove. From bringing nationally competitive grant-funded programs and exhibits to Cottage Grove to an outstanding collection of materials to unique recreational and educational programs, you have created a gem for your community. That gem will shine with continued funding for your part-time library employees.

Libraries are particularly vital in the face of disruption and economic turmoil. When residents of the Cottage Grove community need a chance to apply for unemployment or a loan to keep their small business afloat, it is the library that can offer expertise and computer access. Students without typical schooling need a strong summer reading program to maintain literacy and avoid the summer slump. Right now, libraries across the country are serving as vital members of city and county Emergency Operations Center activities. Some have pivoted to bring their research expertise to the fore as public health virus tracers. Others are offering online technology training and tutorials.

A strong library is one of the most important ways you can ensure that the City of Cottage Grove can be resilient through these challenging times. While many public services are important and needed, most can only solve problems. Public safety like police and fire departments are amazing at responding to emergencies. It is your library that can provide prevention and ensure those emergencies are manageable.

I urge you to fully fund the staff of your library in the current budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Meg Spencer

Meg Spencer

Director, Siuslaw Public Library District

Currently Reading: We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves by Karen Jay Fowler

Just Finished: The Diver's Game...by Jesse Ball

1460 9th Street

5/5/2020

City of Cottage Grove Mail - Testimony for City of Cottage Grove's FY 2020/2021 Budget Committee Meeting

Florence, OR 97439

Phone: 541.997.3132 x211

Fax: 541-997-6473



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Budget Committee Meeting Testimony

1 message

Su Liudahl <Director.Su@creswell-library.org>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 2:35 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Dear Budget Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to do everything possible to provide adequate support for your city library. Libraries are never more important than in times of economic hardship as they provide a lifeline to community members as they navigate applying for unemployment benefits, job searches, business start-ups, and more. In addition, the schools need the support of the library's children's programming to keep kids' skills up. And adults need the library's collections and programming to meet their educational and entertainment needs for their mental health and wellbeing.

Your library can be one of your most essential departments if you give them the funding they need.

Thank you for your contribution to the community!

~Su Liudahl

Su Liudahl
Director
Lane Library District (Creswell Library)
64 W. Oregon Avenue
PO Box 366
Creswell, OR 97426
(541) 895-3053
(541) 895-3507 (Fax)
www.creswell-library.org



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Comments about the 2020-21 Library budget

1 message

Friends of CGLibrary <friendsofcglibrary@gmail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 2:41 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

To the Budget Committee

Our community clearly values the important services provided by our public library. It is a vital part of the lifestream of Cottage Grove. On behalf of Friends of the Library I want to convey my thanks to the City for the support it has given to our library.

In reviewing the City's 2020-21 proposed budget, the reduction of library staff stood out as a major change. I am quite sure the committee has received numerous emails expressing concern. That is an indicator of how important the library is to our community members.

I would like to thank and commend Richard Meyers for taking the time to patiently outline how the reductions in library staff fit into the big picture of Cottage Grove developing a balanced budget during a pandemic. His affirmation of the library and desire for the eventual restoration of library services when the time comes was reassuring. I shared Richard's letter with Friends of the Library. His explanation increased our understanding of the thinking behind the reductions and reduced fears of a long-term negative impact on our library.

I thank the City Council and Budget Committee members for their thoughtful review of the city's proposed budget and City staff for all the hard work that went into preparing it.

Naturally the library is missed during this time of closure. Friends of the Library look forward to the final budget incorporating the re-opening of our library and restoration of library staffing.

Sincerely,

Bruce Kelsh, President of Friends of Cottage Grove Library



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Library

1 message

Debbie Monsive <familyhistory@ymail.com>

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 2:48 PM

To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

I urge you to please continue full funding for our library! So many citizens of our community depend on it's services!

As we continue social distancing we could have appointments to check out books or have our library join the other Lane County Libraries that offer online check out of ebooks. It's time to invest in technology to reach more citizens and the staff could be utilizing this time to implement more ways for the public to benefit from services.

Respectfully,

Debra Monsive

Local and a Family Historian



Trudy Borrevik <cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org>

Written Testimony for Budget Committee Meeting and Public Hearing - May 5, 2020 - 6:00 pm

1 message

Rebecca Arnoux <rebecca.arnoux@gmail.com>
To: cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Tue, May 5, 2020 at 2:52 PM

May 5, 2020

Dear Budget Committee,

The City of Cottage Grove's budget proposal for fiscal year 2020-2021 cuts fiscal year 2019-2020's adopted 1.12 FTE Library Aides (part time) to 0.00 FTE. With all library staff currently laid off with rehire rights, this does not necessarily mean the library aides will not return within the year. However, it does show their return is not anticipated and implies the library will be reopening without the library aides.

City budgets are historical documents that are frequently looked at by citizens and government officials without a larger context. While we have received an explanation of the reductions in our department from the city manager, the budget does not include that context. Institutional memory is often short and there is a significant chance that a future city official will see evidence that the municipal library has been able to succeed on fewer employees and that full-time library staff aren't needed.

The proposed budget deeply concerns the staff of the Cottage Grove Public Library when considering the future needs of the people of Cottage Grove in this time of uncertainty and hardship.

Now—more than ever—the services provided by the Cottage Grove Public Library are invaluable to the community of Cottage Grove. Yes, COVID-19 has created uncertainty of what business operations will look like as Oregon begins reopening doors. Yes, the way businesses and libraries function will look different, and none of us can predict what that will look like. However, we can say with certainty Oregonians are going to need resources to get their lives back on track again.

The Cottage Grove Public Library provides free wi-fi access and public computers. Daily, prior to the closure of the library, the staff members of the Cottage Grove Public Library assisted job seekers with learning basic computer skills, formatting resumes, creating e-mail accounts, navigating online applications, finding community resources, and printing job materials. With more than 330,000 Oregonians filing jobless claims in the past month, Cottage Grove will absolutely need more support for our community members seeking jobs. With fewer library workers and, ultimately, reduced library hours, we will struggle to meet the immediate needs of our patrons.

Even if a very limited number of patrons are allowed through the door at a time, we foresee library staff assisting patrons at a distance inside the building and over the phone. A single library patron often needs repeat assistance throughout their computer experience and often requires sustained assistance depending on the situation. Having our library aides from the beginning will help us be more available, serve more patrons, and allow us to provide better one-on-one assistance when necessary.

We need all of our employees to best support our community in these uncertain times. We should be bolstering the library's ability to assist, support, and serve the people of Cottage Grove as we navigate the

effects of COVID-19 together.

When asked specifically about our concerns in Cottage Grove, Megan Cusick, assistant director and state advocacy, of the American Library Association—the oldest and largest library association in the world—shares our concerns, "...communities will rely even more heavily on libraries [as] we emerge from isolation—both for social cohesion and for a wide range of services. This is not a time to cut library services."

Thank you for considering the importance of all of our library staff members while evaluating the budget of the fiscal year 2020-2021.

Sincerely,

Peter Barrell, Library Director
Natasha Chitow, Head Librarian
Colleen Shaw, Senior Library Assistant
Becky Arnoux, Library Assistant
Amy Lima, Library Aide
Sahla Denton, Library Aide
Mark Breckenridge, Library Aide

 **May 5, 2020 - Written testimony.pdf**
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