

To the Board Members and Staff of the Summit County Library,

It is now a weekly occurrence that I find myself walking the several blocks from Breckenridge Town Hall to the South Branch of the Summit County library, snow or shine. Often, I don't have a chance to pull out my card or say my name before the staff member heads to the shelf to grab the books that I've ordered. The South Branch Library is my place of respite, and I've become a regular. When I moved into a 500 square foot apartment, I knew that my reading storage needed to decrease significantly. I began to question the sustainability of constant book purchases (both on the environment and my finances). It was then that I began to utilize the library. Since then, I have become voracious in my reading habits. I've read 15 books since the start of 2020. The Summit County library system has given me space to continue my constant quest for knowledge and reinvigorated a reading habit that has been struggling since graduation.

It is for the personal reasons that I wish to give back and join the Summit County Library Board, but I am also passionate about this from a broader angle. I believe that our public libraries are the last great and genuinely equitable public institutions in America, and I hope to preserve them at all costs. Public libraries provide education, community, and programs to those who otherwise would not have access to them. Public libraries give people a safe space to hide momentarily from the world as they enter into a new world of literature, develop their skillsets, or even search for jobs. I feel passionate about both ensuring that this public institution continues but that it also thrives into the 21st century. I hope to find new, innovative ways to support the community through reading and development, especially by continuing to engage younger generations in the library.

There are several ways in which I feel qualified for this position and believe that I can be of assistance. First, my master's in literary theory from the University of Denver ensures that I can advise on literary topics. I am well versed in both classical and contemporary literature (both fiction and non-fiction) and have spent several years in the editorial and publishing world. I can advise on programmatic decisions when it comes to literacy, writing and development, and speaking events. My graduate thesis focused on environmental literature, and I would eagerly look forward to developing a program around these topics for our community.

Second, my role with the Town of Breckenridge provides ample correlation to the Summit County Library Board. As the sole manager for the Town's communications and marketing materials and strategy, I would love to transfer these skills and knowledge to the board. I would look forward to using my contacts within the media world to promote events and engagement with the library, and my marketing skills to draw new users into the system. I believe that knowing how our local municipal government works can also provide an incentive. Finally, I think that as a millennial in our community, I can give a voice for our seasonal and younger residents who are looking for avenues of engagement and connection. For all these reasons, I would be honored to serve on the Summit County Library Board.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Haley Littleton

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