



Library Board Meeting Minutes October 08, 2020

Chairperson: Cassandra Barney, Presiding

Board Members Present: Jayne Detering, Violet Stone, and Anita McClure

Staff Present: Assistant City Administrator/City Recorder Michele Eldridge, Utility Billing/Library Supervisor Lori Ross, and Librarians Cheryl Spangler and Mandy Pelkey

Meeting Location: Harrisburg Municipal Center @ 354 Smith St.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL at the hour of 6:32pm

CONCERNED CITIZEN(S) IN THE AUDIENCE. Everyone present were there for items on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Stone **motioned to approve the minutes from June 11, 2020. She was seconded by President Barney. The Library Board then voted unanimously to approve the minutes from June 11, 2020.**

OLD BUSINESS

THE MATTER OF... REVIEWING A LIBRARY PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Eldridge shared that unfortunately, Library Programs were still considered a social gathering by the state, therefore, the City wasn't able to allow any programs to be held at this time. The Library Board decided after some discussion, that it would be premature to discuss a new Library Program if they weren't able to hold a program. The subject was tabled until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

THE MATTER OF SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION FOR THE OREGON DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

STAFF REPORT: Ross went over the details of the program, as stated in the agenda report. The total possible fees for this program are \$5,500, but will likely be less, although the cost of the program in the next fiscal year will increase slightly. Therefore, it will be budgeted in the next fiscal year. She went over the conditions of membership, which will be completed by the City over the next few months. The Linn Library Consortium votes in April, and if accepted, an agreement will be signed by all, and the Library will be invoiced for its share.

The Library Board and staff agreed that this will be a great program to offer our patrons, especially when it's something that can be done during a pandemic. The Library plans on dropping the genealogy subscription, which will help pay for the program, and plans on requesting some additional funds from the City, as well as the Harrisburg Library Guild.

THE MATTER OF FILLING A LIBRARY BOARD VACANCY

STAFF REPORT: Eldridge shared that there had been no applications turned in so far and recommended that the board members talk to their friends, family, and neighbors, and to advocate for new board members. She would be sharing a Facebook Posting, in addition to the website alert board. There would be an extended deadline of November 5, 2020.

OTHERS: President Cassie Barney related that a patron had complained to her in tears, because they were being faced with Library fees, and didn't feel that they could use Library services anymore. They had taken this to the City Council last year, who had turned down the proposal, although they did allow the fines for food program (amnesty program) to proceed. She still felt strongly that the Library should not charge fines for late books and wanted to take it to the City Council again. Both Spangler and Pelkey shared that many people were upset about the fines, and often didn't want to use Library Services while they had them. Some patrons had actually stated that they wouldn't use Library services again unless the Library changed its policy.

Both Eldridge and Ross reminded the Library Board that if they wanted to bring this to the City Council again, that they could; however, they suggested that they will need to do new research about a fine free program. In particular, Eldridge emphasized that there needed to be Libraries that are regional/local that are offering the program, and that they shouldn't look at any of the county run libraries when making comparisons. A large Library shouldn't be compared to the small City or district ran Libraries. President Barney said that she would do some more research, as would the Librarians, and would provide it to Ross in time for discussion at the November meeting.

The Library Board then briefly discussed services that were available for patrons of the Library, and it was decided that the Librarians would post on Facebook to remind students that we have computers available, but more importantly, that a student could bring their own computer/tablet to the Library, and could use the WIFI system to do school work. This offers another service to the community, and in particular to a family that may not have strong WIFI services in their home.

Eldridge also asked the Librarians and the Library Board if they would like to hold a Halloween event of some sort. The Mayor in particular wanted something to be done on Halloween for the kids in the community. She said that if they were willing, that the City could buy candy out of the general fund, rather than Library funds. She suggested that they could hold a costume contest, which could be posted to Facebook if the parents give permission for the pictures to be shared. They would need a volunteer to stand at the Library entrance, who could hand out candy, and the pavement could be marked with 6' markings. Everyone joked about some of the creative ways we could make the marks for 6' separation, such as using spider webs, or as Spangler suggested, body contours. The Librarians and Board were somewhat non-committal, although everyone thought it would be a nice idea. They would consider it over the next week or so.

ADJOURN: The Board adjourned at the hour of 7:22pm.

President

City Recorder