



Library Board Minutes March 05, 2024

Chairperson: Desria Hansen
Vice-Chairperson: Alexandria Bennett
Board Members: Rian Tupua and Vacancy
Board Members Absent: Lori Pelkey (Excused)
Staff Members: Library Supervisor Cathy Nelson, City Recorder Lori Ross Librarians
Amanda Pelkey and Edith Carter
Meeting Location: Harrisburg Municipal Center Located at 354 Smith St

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL by Vice-Chairperson Hansen at the hour of 5:39pm

CONCERNED CITIZEN(S) IN THE AUDIENCE: Harrisburg resident and member of the Harrisburg Library Guild, Barb Shipley introduced herself to the board and asked if they have any interest in restarting the Guild. Shipley stated the board was formed over 10 years ago with the purpose of fundraising to help with the cost of a new library. Shipley would like to establish a relationship with the Library and work together.

- Hansen asked Shipley if they also support Library Programs. Shipley replied they have helped with programs in the past, but the bulk of their funds are for the future Library as they are dedicated funds.
- Shipley spoke about the Tea Party Fundraiser and asked if there was any interest in bringing it back. If so, it would require volunteers to make it happen. A. Pelkey stated they are willing to participate. A. Pelkey will share contact information for the Guild with the Board and staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: No comments or concerns.

- Bennett **motioned to approve the minutes from the January 2, 2024 Library Board Meeting and was seconded by** Tupua. **The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.** (Yes: Hansen, Bennett, and Tupua. No: None.)

THE MATTER OF NOMINATING A CHAIRPERSON FOR THE LIBRARY BOARD: No discussion.

- Bennett **motioned to appoint Hansen as the Library Board Chairperson effective March 5, 2024 and for the fiscal year 2023/2024 and was seconded**

by Tupua. **The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.** (Yes: Hansen, Bennett, and Tupua. No: None.)

- Hansen **motioned to appoint Bennett as the Library Board Vice-Chairperson effective March 5, 2024 and for fiscal year 2023/2024 and was seconded by** Tupua. **The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.** (Yes: Hansen, Bennett, and Tupua. No: None.)

THE MATTER OF DISCUSSING LIBRARY PROGRAMS:

- **Craft Club:** No changes. Program is going well.
- **Game Night:** Due to former Chairperson Prozialeck's move, program is on hold until a new volunteer is found. Bennett volunteered for this Thursday's program.
- **Teen Book Club:** There are three members that attend regularly.
- **Story Time:** Program is going well. The FFA program went very well.
- **Baby Story Time:** Going very well with good turnouts. Program will be moving into the HMC when they are able to due to larger attendance.
- **Lego Club:** Program is going well. They have two young helpers that assist with planning.
- **Karaoke Club:** Goes well when the patrons are in the mood.
- **Computer Class:** Pelkey stated that only one patron signed up for it. Program has been put on hold until they can find a new instructor. Nelson to reach out to local retirement centers to see if there is an interest in attending the program and Pelkey to ask the High School FFA Program about instructing the program.
- **Grief Support:** Volunteer, Cheryl Spangler read **Addendum 1** which outlined the reasons for holding the program at the H. A.R.T Center. She commented that the space at the H.A.R.T Center is not suitable for their meeting and would like for the program to be part of the Library again and they are willing to use the Jury Room if needed.
 - Volunteer Cheryl Ressler would like to have the program on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.
 - Nelson confirmed the first program would be March 18th at 6pm and stated they would need to start using the sign-in sheets for the program.
 - Hansen confirmed they will be using the Jury Room, and they will pick up and drop off the key at City Hall.
 - Pelkey stated she would post about the program on Facebook, the Friday before.
 - Ressler commented they only have one book left for the program. Nelson asked for information about the book, and she would order additional copies.

The next meeting will be on May 7th, 2024 at 5:30pm.

With no further discussion, the Library Board meeting adjourned at the hour of 6:26pm.

Grief Program

March 5,

The Grief Group has been using the Municipal Room since we started. We wanted the library to cover the group for not only a place but also so information from the library would be given out and for the financial aspect.

Our problem was the difficulty in getting access to the building. Sometimes there were other meetings that would take precedence over ours, which would lead to inconsistencies with meetings or getting the key, (for example, when the city hall is closed, who do we call to come get the door open for us if we didn't get a key on Friday.) Our things were put away in rooms we did not have access to.

Cheryll and I discussed an alternative room for easier access for meetings. It was mentioned the HART Center would let us use that room. We thought it may be easier to meet there, but still be part of the library programs. Cheryll was able to find a place for us to have access to our books and information and her own key to get in as needed. It was never planned not to be part of the library.

We have had meetings there and the space really is not suitable for our meetings. The room is cluttered, stacks of boxes that are probably too high for safety standards, the lighting is more for interviewing criminals than discussing touchy memories.

We found out not through the people in charge that the Group was no longer under the library and that they would not be giving out information or financial help because we had decided to go with HART. That surprised both of us, since there was no official meeting about what we were doing, or actually any discussion about how the meetings are going, what do we need to make the meetings better, etc.

Maggie came over to the library last year and said Michele informed her the library will be in charge of community programs. It made some sense that we would do that, since the library is not just about books anymore.

We are helping our community with this group and it has shown a lot of potential for how important it is. If someone wants to go to a grief group, it is a drive to another town. As we know, many lane and state agencies don't come to Harrisburg because they don't have access to space.

If the library is going to oversee programs, you need to up the ante and find these groups that are going to help our community. Story time and lego time is great, but we have a community that needs more. And a more regular output of information would be nice too. Kids and the librarian at the school don't know about free cards. People are excited about Rocket Language and Libby but don't hear about it.

We have that group from Albany that has been in Harrisburg showing an interest in coming and being a part of the community. We need a space for counseling and WIC, Mental Health, etc. so many things our city could have access to, because not everyone has access to Albany.

We who live here know that we are a little town and sometimes feel no hope for what is given us. Driving 20-30 miles is not an easy tasks for many people, but that doesn't mean the need is not here. And it is here even after 5pm.

Addendum 1