

HERMISTON LIBRARY BOARD

Regular Meeting

November 19, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by Lisa Depew, with Casey Hinkley, Lori Davis and Rosario Madrigal present to form a quorum. Also present was Maria Duron, City Council Liaison and Mark Rose, Library Director.

2. READING OF MINUTES

A. September 25, 2024

B. October 23, 2024

The minutes were approved written.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Library Calendar 2025

Mr. Rose explained the items on the calendar for 2025 which details closed dates, Library Board Meetings, and early closures for holiday eves. A discussion of our meeting times and dates was also engaged in to ensure that future meetings are at times workable for all members. It was determined that no change was needed. The calendar was approved as presented.

6. LIBRARIANS REPORT

A. Quarterly Report, 1st Qtr 24-25

Mr. Rose noted the marking on the report, both top and bottom reminding that renovation is occurring during the timeframe of this report. Circulation is down for physical items while electronic items demand remains the same. Computer use remains strong in spite of fewer computers to work at, WiFi access is down due to lack of interior seating. Budget expenses in personnel are less the 1% over for the first time since Mr. Rose has been Director here. There are sufficient changes remaining for this year that this will be on track in future reports. Mr. Rose and Ms. Inners, City HR, have worked to make these budget costs closer to true costs.

B. Directors Report

Mr. Rose reported that his wife's health care providers are investigating the possible need for an organ transplant. This will impact his flexibility and availability. Board members expressed their support for family and her health.

Mr. Rose reported that the library had closed 2 different Saturdays since moving into the Carnegie building because staff called in sick. The board expressed their concern for our customers and our need to be open the hours listed. Mr. Rose indicated that additional staffing will be added to ensure this problem is minimized.

As mentioned in previous Director Reports long time staff member Kelly Martinez is retiring soon. That position will not be replaced immediately, it has been decided to list after her departure so that interviews would occur in January rather than during the holidays.

The Umatilla County Special Library District (UCSLD) requested the regular update of the MOU with the City of Hermiston. City Manager Smith requested they provide details about the changes included in the update. On 12 November UCSLD held a special Board Meeting to address this request, which I attended via Zoom. Two issues were of concern to Mr. Smith, first that no list of changes to the MOU had not been provided, and second that the formula remains unfair to the residents of Hermiston rural. A special meeting was held on November 15 with Mr. Smith, Mr. Rose, Ms. Clifton, UCSLD Board Member, and Ms. Estrada, Director of UCSLD where these issues were discussed.

Mr. Rose reported that the Friends of the Library have committed to specific art installations for the renovation.

Mr. Rose reported that the renovation is moving forward, demolition is largely complete. The hole in the floor for the new stairway has already been covered for safety reasons.

7. OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Ms. Duron spoke about a recent meeting focused on family support and the creation of a multicultural resilience center something the library might be interested in engaging with.

8. NEXT MEETING

A. January 22, 2025

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm.