

HERMISTON LIBRARY BOARD

Regular Meeting

September 27, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Chair Lisa Depew, with Erick Peterson, and Lori Davis, present to form a quorum. Also present was Maria Duron, City Council Liaison, Heather Estrada, Director of Umatilla County Special Library District, and Mark Rose, Library Director.

2. READING OF MINUTES

A. July 26, 2023

The minutes were approved with correction to name spellings.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review of Collection Development Policy

Mr. Rose presented the Collection Development Policy and described how it was updated in 2018. The purpose of the policy is to present the basis of the collection and the general criteria on how it is built. Another purpose is to inform staff and the public how to manage a conflict over an items presence in the collection. He was questioned about how the policy was developed, the policy of other libraries, in the state, were reviewed many of which are like the current policy. He stated that no challenges have been received in his time with the Hermiston Public Library. That challenges he has experienced in other libraries tend to be about something that personally offends an individual in the community. A response outlining the policy, and the value of the item to others in the community have typically served to satisfy the complainant. Mr Rose also reported that staff have not requested any changes to the current policy. The Library Board approved the continuation of the policy to be marked Reviewed, while retaining the original approval date.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Library Hours Open to the Public

Mr Rose presented options for the reduction of library hours open for public service. Because of the temporary freeze on hiring 2 part time staff, it has become difficult to continue with 54 hours of service a week. The proposals presented showed three options

1. closing all day Monday
2. staggering open and close times to reduce 10 hours of service
3. a reduction Monday evening and Saturday afternoon, listed as 10 hours of service reduction (however, that was incorrect, it was only 5 hours)

After some discussion on the challenges of each, the 3rd method was supported by the board.

6. LIBRARIANS REPORT

Staffing Situation We have hired Katia who is fitting in very well and has learned a great deal already. She is qualified to function as a translator.

Renovation Project The architects have provided 3 design scenarios that I and other staff have reviewed and given comment on. An element under consideration is a staircase in the interior of the building rather than at exterior points as now, this is a cost factor and that issue is being explored to insure we don't spend time on an impossible idea.

Kiwanis Tonight at 6 is my last official function as president of the Kiwanis Club of Hermiston. It's been a good year and I'm glad to be able to hand over the leadership to another.

7. OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

8. NEXT MEETING

A. November 29, 2023

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.