

Board of Trustees, Washington Public Library

April 25, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Katie Schonaerts, the roll was called and the Pledge given. Members present included: Leanne Gisburne, Katie Schonaerts, Doug Holdmeyer, Barbara Volmert, Lynn Hart, Susan Wehmuller and Carolyn Witt.

Barb moved that the agenda be approved. Motion seconded by Leanne and the motion carried. Barb moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Lynn. Motion carried.

Friends of the Library Report: The Friends met last month and are looking forward to participating in the Summer Kickoff, the upcoming author event and the August MO Book Festival!

Library Director's Report:

COVID-19: No changes in procedures. The City has paused its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. Wastewater monitoring continues.

Statistics and Collections: Circulation and statistics are, in general, comparable to last year and we have settled into a new post-pandemic norm. Penworthy kits selection is on hold as the State Library might fund this purchase with a grant. Nelson stated the Friends to will fund free little libraries in the Washington senior care facilities with current large print books by popular authors. This will be in cooperation with the Community Literacy Foundation. The library has a two month trial to Book Page Magazine, a publication with will be free to patrons. Friends will decide if they will fund this after the trial period.

Facilities: The City has proposed using some ARPA funds to address the library's HVAC system. A RFQ request was issued on April 1. Two Interested vendors have requested an in-person visit. Diane Lick made a statement on her representing the Board at two city meetings on the HVAC issue. She felt the city responded to her concerns and questions. She will continue to advocate for the Library Board and patrons going forward. We are all grateful for Diane's efforts on our behalf, as Board representation in such meetings keep our concerns on their "agenda" as plans evolve to solve our problems.

Trainings: Staff will hold their annual development/all-staff meeting on May 6th. The library will close at noon.

Programs:

April recap:

Community Read events have been well-attended. Franken-Trivia, Mad Science, Mushrooms Rising from the Dead, and Grave Robbing.

Upcoming Programs:

Community Reads wraps up this Saturday, April 30th with “Meet Mary Shelley” at 6 pm at ECC Theatre.

Great Decisions 2022 has been so well-attended, Bill Schwab will run the course again in the fall.

The library is using Kay Hazel funds to bring NC author Wiley Cash for a program in June. This will be a special Friday event.

Friends Author Programs: Roadkill with Don Corrigan, May 17th at 6:30 pm. The Irish in St. Louis with Patrick Murphy on May 19th at 6:30 pm.

A High School Field Trip, Wednesday April 27th from the Fulton School in St. Albans.

The Summer Reading Kickoff event will be even bigger this year - another special Friday event. There will even more programs and performers this summer! Friday, June 3 at 7 pm with the Bubble Bus the main attraction.

The Missouri Book Festival planning committee has been meeting and moving forward with plans to hold a festival centering on the library parking lot, August 27th. This is an exciting event, should be a lot of work and we hope the community rallies around this event. Christy Stroyer is chairing this event.

Elections

Library was a polling location in the 2022 elections and successfully welcomed Ward 4 voters on April 5th. We continue to receive good feedback from patrons/voters on using the library for this activity. Congratulations to Doug Hagedorn, the new Mayor of Washington. Thank you to outgoing Council Members Gretchen Pettet and Greg Skornia for their service as the Library Liaisons. Council will approve new board liaisons at their May 2nd meeting.

Sue moved that the Director’s Report be approved, seconded by Leanne.
Motion carried.

Unfinished Business: Nelson reported that the Policy Manual is ready to be reviewed by the committee and he will contact Diane and Carolyn about a time to get together to do this. (delayed from last month.)

New Business: No new business.

There being no further business, Barb moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Lynn. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: June 27th, 2022 (NO meeting in May)