

Board of Trustees , Washington Public Library  
January 24, 2022 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Lick, the roll was called and the Pledge given.

**Members present included:** (both virtual and in person) Diane Lick, Leanne Gisburne, Doug Holdmeyere, Susan Wehmueller, Katie Schonaerts, Barbara Volmert, Lynn Hart, Greg Skornia and Carolyn Witt.

Greg moved that the agenda be approved. Motion seconded by Doug and the motion carried. Greg moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Katie. Motion carried.

**Friends of the Library Report:** Nelson reported that the Friends continue to support various activities and projects. There will be no spring book sale due to the Omicron surge. There was excellent press on Bill Schwab and his programs in a recent Missourian.

#### **Library Director's Report:**

**COPVID-19:** No changes in mask requirements for the library. The Director had purchased special masks for the staff, if they choose to use them. There is an increase in public use of masks due to the current issues. There has been no change in library procedures currently in force.

**Grants: Completed:** State Mini-Tech Grant request through the State Library, to replace AWE early-literacy machines and add 5 projectors for checkout. Spending period starts Dec. 1. Completed Setup: re-budgeted the 2021 ALA \$3,000 grant after determining greatest need was for conference room laptop and Zoom conferencing setup. Completed: Strengthening Missouri grant for hotspots funding and an additional laptop for dial-a-story and Director's use. Completed: ½ grants approved to fund 2022 PLA National Convention. (one person funded to attend)

**Statistics and Collections:** Omicron surge is probably affecting some patron's behavior. Library will be adding new supply of musical instruments/other items with money from the Friends of the Library.

**Facilities:** Library will receive some insurance money for the lightning strike last summer that caused some HVAC damage. Staff is working with a consulting vendor to identify a plan to move forward with the HVAC system. (Roof top system, less specialized, more traditional system possible. Possible cost savings.) Friends are funding a portable TV for advertising programs and Library services located in the lobby area.

**HR:** Janet Judemann has retired and hiring a replacement continues.

**Trainings:** Possibility of a SRL/WPL joint training in the future. Passport training has resulted in now having 4 certified agents for 2022. (Nelson, Carol, Peggy and Kerry)

**Programs:** December/January programs: Re-introduced two Tot Times to our schedule. January Popcorn Movie Party. Elephant and Piggy Party.

**Friends Speaker Series...**Cynthia Hoffman spoke on Pilgrimages on Jan. 20.

**February programs:** Jan Jacobi – Abraham Lincoln (and contest) February 19 at 1 pm. Bill Schwab will continue Great Decisions program running Feb-March on Wednesday afternoons. Winter Reading Challenge continues.

**Looking ahead at Programs:** The Community Read of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein is scheduled March 12-April 30. The program committee is working the logistics of scheduling storytimes, lectures, crafts and an escape room. (Looks wonderful!) 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. The Summer Reading Kickoff event will be even bigger this year – another special Friday event. There will even more programs and performers this summer! The Library is exploring/planning for an August Local Author Book Fair. This project will work with the publisher Reedy Press and Neighborhood Reads, highlighting as many authors as possible.

Diane thanked Nelson and the staff for bringing all these amazing projects to the public and emerging from the difficult past two years due to the pandemic even a stronger force in our community.

Susan moved that the Director's Report be approved, seconded by Doug. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:** Nelson reported that the Policy Manual is still undergoing some work and the review is delayed until this is completed.

**New Business:** The Annual Report was shared with the Board. The report reflected the remarkable job done by the Director and staff in keeping open the past year and moving forward through difficult times. The Board all agreed that they all should be commended for this challenging and successful past year shown in this innovative report.

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

**Next Meeting:** February 28, 2022