

Board of Trustees , Washington Public Library

November 28, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President, Katie Schonaerts, who led the Pledge. Members present included: Doug Holdmeyer, Susan Wehmueller, Katie Schonaerts, Barbara Volmert and Carolyn Witt. Guests included Robert Ulrich, Darren Lamb – City Administrator and Missourian reporter Ethan.

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

Friends of the Library Report: Friends are currently working on the end of the year/ New Year membership drive. The group moved to approve funding the equipment needed to take Passport photos on site with a digital camera.

Library Director's Report:

COVID-19: No changes in procedures. One of the staff is out with a positive test result.

Statistics and Collections: The annual State Statistical Report has been submitted, so a year end report will be presented to the Board in the New Year. October statistics show in the Circulation Report a strong ending to the fiscal year. Passport applications remain higher than the previous two years and computer usage remain steady. The Steam Kits purchased this summer are a overwhelming success. This program was funded by Friends and a State Grant.

Facilities: Veregy will have a walk-through next week and some vendors will also look at the building for the upcoming HVAC project. This project basics remain unchanged. Constructions will begin in med-February and run through April. We plan on keeping the library open during the installation of the HVAC system. There may be limited access for patrons during this process. We will be meeting with Veregy to determine the project schedule and its impact on patron and staff access to the library. We do now anticipate having to close the library for at least two days when insulation needs to be blown in the library. A cost affective vendor has been found to help with the damaged Meeting Room partition.

Staffing: December 9th, the staff will have a ½ day retreat. The library will close at noon.

Programs:

Missouri Book Festival: The committee continues to look into various funding avenues.

November Recap: Dinovember Dinos Scavenger Hunt – November 1-30, was a big hit. Ceramics Class for ages 10-17, November 10. Journey Through the Advent Calendar with Rachel Browdy, November 17th (Friends of the Library Series). Dinosaur Bingo for Kids! Wednesday, November 23, 10:00 am. Storytime at the Olde Fashioned Christmas Chamber event.

Upcoming Programs: Christmas Ornament Make and Take, December 6th. Dan O’Neill, Best of the Blues, December 8th. Winter Reading Challenge starts December 1st and concludes February 28th.

Sue moved that the Librarian’s Report be approved. Barbara seconded the motion, which passed.

Unfinished Business: HVAC (see attached Scope of Work) Darren came through the walk-through with the project coordinator. He reported that the City has successfully worked with Veregy in other projects.

There was a continued discussion of the state rule change for public library received from the Secretary of State’s Office. Nothing will change until July 31, 2023 and state funds will not be with-held from libraries not compliant during this fiscal year. Nelson shared the current policies on “freedom to read” and challenging library materials. Mr. Ulrich stated the rule proposed by the Secretary of State does not seem onerous to the library as WE (the library) write the rule, which should harken back to parental control. Barb stated that local control results in a reflection of the community. The Board agreed that the terms were very vague. There are very “grey” areas such as electronic collections. Carolyn shared that in the past the library did not sensor a patron’s choice of what to read, however not every request resulted in purchasing material. The material requested would be acquired for the patron, with no judgement made, on a temporary loan. A public library needs to supply material on every side of an issue in response to patron request. The Board chose not to do anything at this time, relying on policies in place.

New Business: No meeting will be held in December.

There being no further business, Sue moved that the meeting be adjourned. Doug seconded the motion, which carried.

Next Meeting: January 23, 2023