

**Board of Trustees , Washington Public Library
October 24, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by President, Diane Lick, who led the Pledge. Members present included: Leanne Gisburne, Doug Holdmeyer, Lynn Hart, Susan Wehmueller, Diane Lick, Katie Schonaaerts and Carolyn Witt.

Nelson asked that the agenda be amended to include in New Business: the Development Fund. Katie moved that the agenda, with the addition, be approved. Motion seconded by Leanne and the motion carried. Doug moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Sue. Motion carried.

Friends of the Library Report: Nelson introduced the board to one of the new dinosaur foam skeletons from The Friends. We hope to unveil them during our DiNovember themed month of November. The Friends will be employing an outside accountant as they have raised \$50,000 this year!

Library Director's Report:

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

Statistics and Collections: Circulation Report shows a strong ending to the fiscal year. Financial reports will be final by the end of the month, for the year-end statistical report.

Facilities: Veregy was approved by the City Council and a contract signed to replace the HVAC system. This project will start immediately (the ordering and planning phase). Constructions will begin in mid-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. The meeting room moveable partition is damaged due to normal wear and tear.

Staffing: Congratulations to Kerry Firstenleit for promotion to full-time staff, starting as a Library Technician this week. She will work Tuesday through Saturday and give us a steady Saturday presence.

MLA Conference: Peggy Warden and Nelson, both first time attendees in person, attended the Missouri Library Association Meeting. Nelson's presentation: "Stress, Burnout and Completing the Stress Cycle", was delivered to a packed room!

Programs:

Missouri Book Festival: The committee will meet in the coming weeks to discuss next year and put together a funding plan. Part of the previous year's funding source will be used to support a program on

the west end of the state.

October recap:

Hazel Beck, October 6 (“Witchy Romance”)
Run To Read, October 8
An Evening with Edgar (Edgar Allen Poe!) : October 18
Author Steve Gerdel October 20 (cancelled).

October-November Upcoming:

T-shirt Trick or Treat (Friday, October 28th all day).
Dinovember Dinos Scavenger Hunt – November 1-30.
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.

Book Theft: a large number of Graphic Novels have been stolen (checked out by two patrons and not returned). Over a \$1,000 worth of material has been stolen. Nelson is working with local used book stores and the police on this matter. The patrons involved refused to answer phone calls or accept a certified letter. Police were sent to the house. Some the material had been returned and hopefully the book stores will refuse to purchase future offerings.

Lynn moved that the Librarian’s Report be approved. Leanne seconded the motion, which passed.

Unfinished Business: HVAC (see attached Scope of Work)

New Business: Development Fund: Currently in the fund is \$200,000. The City requests this amount to help off-set the cost of the new HVAC system. Nelson said that the fund usually receives between \$32,000 and \$38,000 a year. Diane led a discussion on this matter. It was discussed that it seems unwise to use the total amount in this fund. The cost of the new system is over a million dollars and this fund is designated to supply such costs. Discussion continued until Carolyn moved that we approve this payment to the City. Lynn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (by a show of hands).

There was a passionate discussion of the state rule change for public libraries 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. We all agreed that the PARENT should be the ultimate censor. Nelson related that he is keeping track of the costs regarding implementation of these demands from the state. Nelson was asked what support he needed from the board. The next meeting will have more information, as it is after November 15th (general comment period.).

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

Next Meeting: November 28, 2022